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SUPERMAN DC NATIONAL COMICS

NO. 58
APR.-MAY

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BAT MAN

Featuring **BATMAN AND ROBIN!**
IN 3 BIG ADVENTURES:
"THE PENGUIN'S STATE-BIRD CRIMES"
"THE BRAND OF A HERO"
"THE BLACK DIAMOND"

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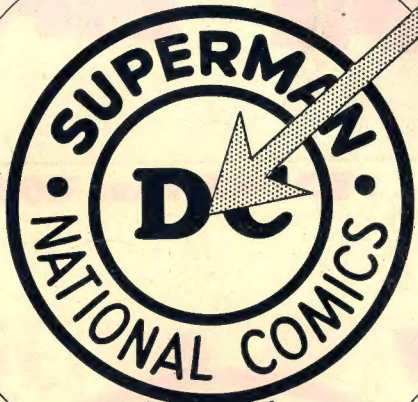

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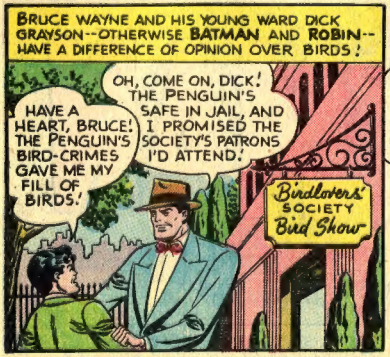
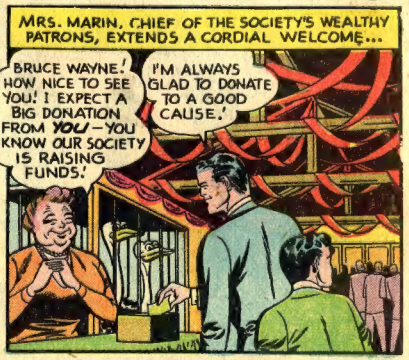
BATMAN WITH ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

BY BOB KANE

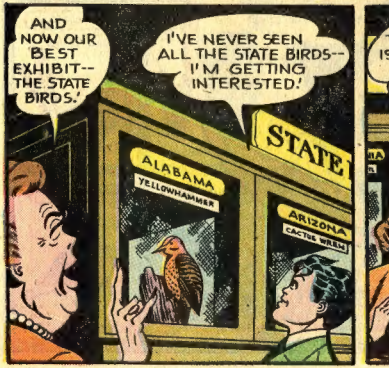
EVERY STATE IN THE UNION HAS ITS OFFICIAL STATE **BIRD** — FROM THE YELLOWHAMMER OF ALABAMA TO THE MEADOW LARK OF WYOMING! BUT WHEN THAT GROTESQUE LITTLE CROOK OF A THOUSAND UMBRELLAS, **THE PENGUIN**, LAUNCHES A NEW BIRD-CRIME CAMPAIGN, THE INNOCENT STATE BIRDS BECOME SYMBOLS OF SINISTER MENACE! AND **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** FIND THEMSELVES BATTLING A NEW KIND OF WINGED WRONGDOING AS THEY STRUGGLE TO STOP... "*The* **STATE-BIRD CRIMES!**"

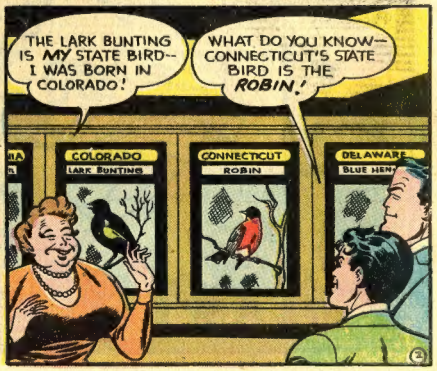

BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD DICK GRAYSON--OTHERWISE BATMAN AND ROBIN--HAVE A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION OVER BIRDS!
OH, COME ON, DICK! THE PENGUIN'S SAFE IN JAIL, AND I PROMISED THE SOCIETY'S PATRONS I'D ATTEND!
HAVE A HEART, BRUCE! THE PENGUIN'S BIRD-CRIMES GAVE ME MY FILL OF BIRDS!
Birdlovers' SOCIETY Bird Show

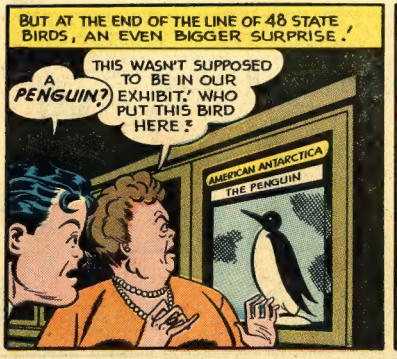

MRS. MARIN, CHIEF OF THE SOCIETY'S WEALTHY PATRONS, EXTENDS A CORDIAL WELCOME...
BRUCE WAYNE! HOW NICE TO SEE YOU! I EXPECT A BIG DONATION FROM YOU—YOU KNOW OUR SOCIETY IS RAISING FUNDS!
I'M ALWAYS GLAD TO DONATE TO A GOOD CAUSE!

I'LL PERSONALLY SHOW YOU OUR EXHIBITS! SEE, OUR LYRE-BIRD AND EMU, FROM AUSTRALIA!

THE GUATEMALAN QUETZAL-BIRD, WHICH CANNOT LIVE LONG IN CAPTIVITY! WE ARE SHOWING IT ONLY TODAY, AND THEN IT WILL BE TAKEN BACK AND SET AT LIBERTY AGAIN.'


AND NOW OUR BEST EXHIBIT--THE STATE BIRDS!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ALL THE STATE BIRDS--I'M GETTING INTERESTED!
STATE
ALABAMA
YELLOWHAMMER
ARIZONA
CACTUS WREN


THE LARK BUNTING IS MY STATE BIRD--I WAS BORN IN COLORADO!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW--CONNECTICUT'S STATE BIRD IS THE ROBIN!
COLORADO
LARK BUNTING
CONNECTICUT
ROBIN
DELAWARE
BLUE HEN


BUT AT THE END OF THE LINE OF 48 STATE BIRDS, AN EVEN BIGGER SURPRISE.
A PENGUIN?
THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE IN OUR EXHIBIT.' WHO PUT THIS BIRD HERE?
AMERICAN ANTARCTICA
THE PENGUIN

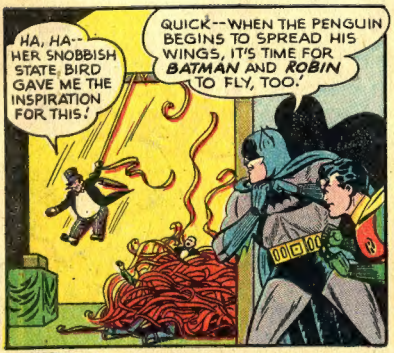
I DID.' MY NAMESAKE BIRD SHOULD CERTAINLY REPRESENT AMERICA'S ANTARCTIC POSSESSIONS.'
THE PENGUIN HIMSELF.' I THOUGHT--I MEAN, THE NEWSPAPERS SAID, YOU WERE IN JAIL.'

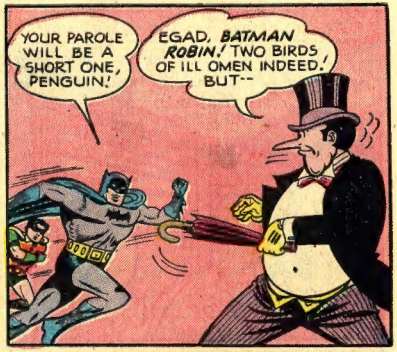
I WAS, BUT HAVE JUST BEEN PAROLED FOR MY EXEMPLARY CONDUCT.'
YOUR PENGUIN HAS NO PLACE IN THIS STATE BIRD EXHIBIT.' WE PATRONS OF THE SOCIETY DEMAND THAT YOU TAKE IT OUT.'
AMERICAN ANTARCTICA

SO YOU BIRD SOCIETY PATRONS THINK THE PENGUIN ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH TO ASSOCIATE WITH YOUR FANCY STATE BIRDS.' YOU'LL FIND OUT DIFFERENTLY.'
AMERICAN ANTARCTICA
THE PENGUIN

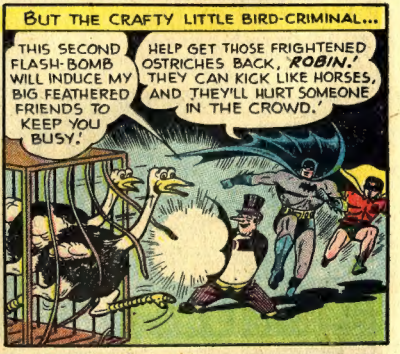
PRESENTLY...
MRS. MARIN'S STATE BIRD IS THE LARK BUNTING.' WELL--

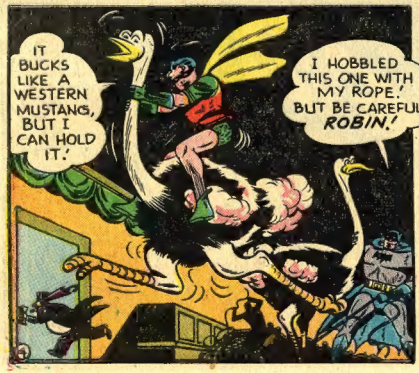
--THIS DECORATIVE BUNTING WILL HELP ME RELIEVE MRS. MARIN OF THE SOCIETY FUNDS.'
THE BUNTING CAME DOWN ON US.' WE'RE ALL TANGLED UP.'


HA, HA--HER SNOBBISH STATE BIRD GAVE ME THE INSPIRATION FOR THIS!
QUICK--WHEN THE PENGUIN BEGINS TO SPREAD HIS WINGS, IT'S TIME FOR BATMAN AND ROBIN TO FLY, TOO!


YOUR PAROLE WILL BE A SHORT ONE, PENGUIN!
EGAD, BATMAN ROBIN! TWO BIRDS OF ILL OMEN INDEED. BUT--

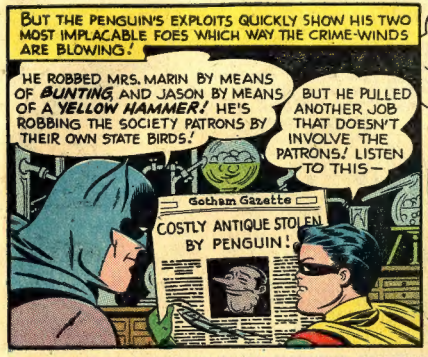
--I CAME PREPARED! HOW DO YOU LIKE MY NEW FLASH-BOMB UMBRELLA?
HE'S DAZZLED ME!
OUR EYES WILL RECOVER IN A SECOND AND WE'LL GRAB HIM!

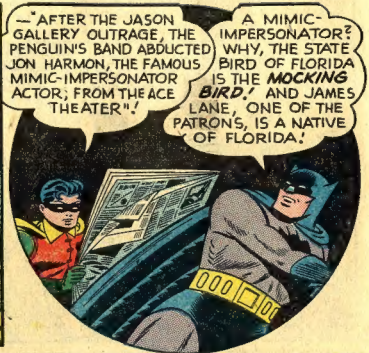

BUT THE CRAFTY LITTLE BIRD-CRIMINAL...
THIS SECOND FLASH-BOMB WILL INDUCE MY BIG FEATHERED FRIENDS TO KEEP YOU BUSY!
HELP GET THOSE FRIGHTENED OSTRICHES BACK, ROBIN! THEY CAN KICK LIKE HORSES, AND THEY'LL HURT SOMEONE IN THE CROWD!

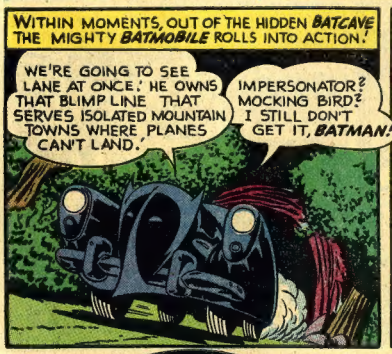

IT BUCKS LIKE A WESTERN MUSTANG, BUT I CAN HOLD IT!
I HOBBLED THIS ONE WITH MY ROPE! BUT BE CAREFUL, ROBIN!

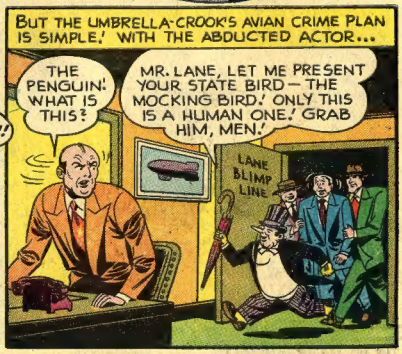
SOON...
THAT HORRIBLE LITTLE MAN GOT AWAY WITH OUR FUNDS!
HE'S A SLIPPERY BIRD, BUT ROBIN AND I HAVE CAGED HIM BEFORE! WE WON'T STOP TILL HE'S BEHIND BARS AGAIN!

BUT THE PENGUIN IS ALREADY FLYING HIGH IN A BIZARRE NEW CRIME CAMPAIGN!
I'LL PUNISH THOSE BIRD SOCIETY PATRONS FOR EJECTING MY PENGUIN! I'LL USE THEIR SNOBBISH STATE BIRDS TO ROB THEM! FIRST — MARK JASON, THE ART DEALER!
WE'RE WITH YOU, IF THE LOOT IS GOOD!
JASON IS AUCTIONING OFF A BIG ANCIENT EGYPTIAN COLLECTION INCLUDING A PRICELESS EMERALD STATUETTE! HE'S A NATIVE OF ALABAMA, SO WE'LL TAKE THAT STATUETTE BY MEANS OF HIS STATE BIRD, THE YELLOW-HAMMER!
IN THE JASON GALLERY, BEFORE THE SALE BEGINS...
QUICK, WE MUST MAKE OUR PREPARATIONS BEFORE THE AUCTION STARTS!
SOON, ART-DEALER MARK JASON OFFERS FOR SALE A RARE RELIC OF THE ANCIENT WORLD!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WHAT AM I BID FOR THIS UNIQUE EMERALD STATUETTE OF THE IBIS GOD THOTH?
FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS!
SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND!
FINALLY, A SUCCESSFUL BID...
GOING FOR ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS TO MR. SELLARS! GOING — GOING —
"GONE!" THE AUCTIONEER'S HAMMER COMES DOWN —!
SOLD! BUT WHAT'S THIS — CHOKING GAS —
THE GAS-BOMB I PLANTED IN HIS YELLOW HAMMER DID THE TRICK! I CAN GET AWAY WITH THE STATUETTE BEFORE THEY RECOVER!


BUT THE PENGUIN'S EXPLOITS QUICKLY SHOW HIS TWO MOST IMPLACABLE FOES WHICH WAY THE CRIME-WINDS ARE BLOWING!
HE ROBBED MRS. MARIN BY MEANS OF BUNTING AND JASON BY MEANS OF A YELLOW HAMMER! HE'S ROBBING THE SOCIETY PATRONS BY THEIR OWN STATE BIRDS!
BUT HE PULLED ANOTHER JOB THAT DOESN'T INVOLVE THE PATRONS! LISTEN TO THIS—
Gotham Gazette
COSTLY ANTIQUE STOLEN BY PENGUIN!


—"AFTER THE JASON GALLERY OUTRAGE, THE PENGUIN'S BAND ABDUCTED JON HARMON, THE FAMOUS MIMIC-IMPERSONATOR ACTOR; FROM THE ACE THEATER"!
A MIMIC-IMPERSONATOR? WHY, THE STATE BIRD OF FLORIDA IS THE MOCKING BIRD! AND JAMES LANE, ONE OF THE PATRONS, IS A NATIVE OF FLORIDA!

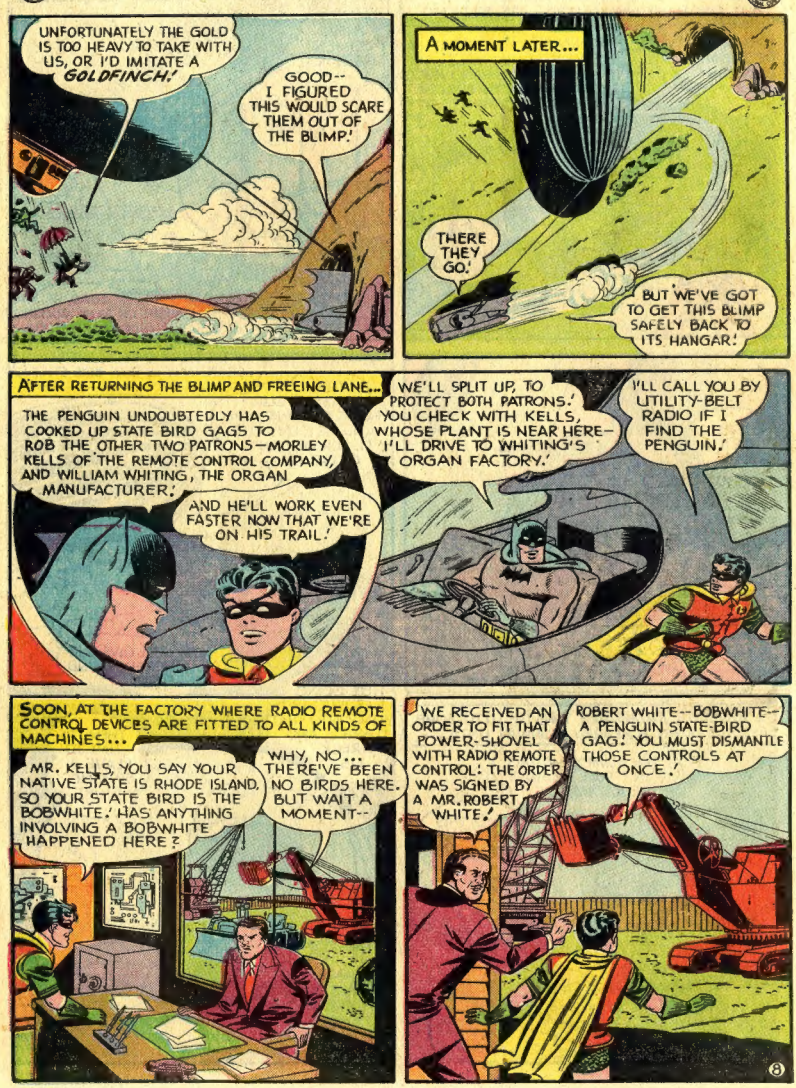

WITHIN MOMENTS, OUT OF THE HIDDEN BATCAVE THE MIGHTY BATMOBILE ROLLS INTO ACTION!
WE'RE GOING TO SEE LANE AT ONCE! HE OWNS THAT BLIMP LINE THAT SERVES ISOLATED MOUNTAIN TOWNS WHERE PLANES CAN'T LAND!
IMPERSONATOR? MOCKING BIRD? I STILL DON'T GET IT, BATMAN!

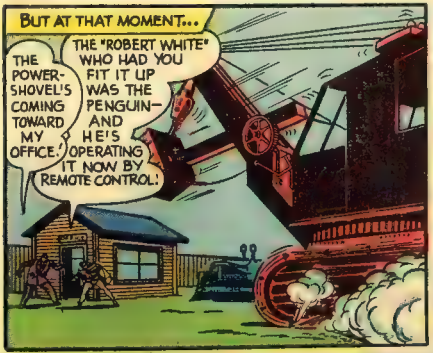

BUT THE UMBRELLA-CROOK'S AVIAN CRIME PLAN IS SIMPLE! WITH THE ABDUCTED ACTOR...
THE PENGUIN! WHAT IS THIS?
MR. LANE, LET ME PRESENT YOUR STATE BIRD—THE MOCKING BIRD! ONLY THIS IS A HUMAN ONE! GRAB HIM, MEN!
LANE BLIMP LINE

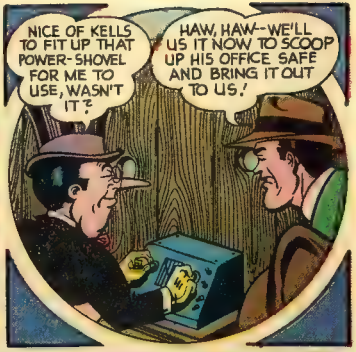
MOMENTS LATER...
YOU HEARD LANE'S VOICE--NOW IMITATE IT EXACTLY ON THE PHONE AND SAY WHAT I TOLD YOU!
I WILL!

EXACTLY MIMICKING JAMES LANE'S VOICE...
BLIMP HANGAR? YOU'RE TO HAVE SPECIAL GUARDS ON THAT GOLD-SHIPMENT FLIGHT! I'M SENDING THEM OVER NOW!
OKAY, MR. LANE—WE'LL BE EXPECTING THEM! I'LL LET THEM INTO THE HANGAR!

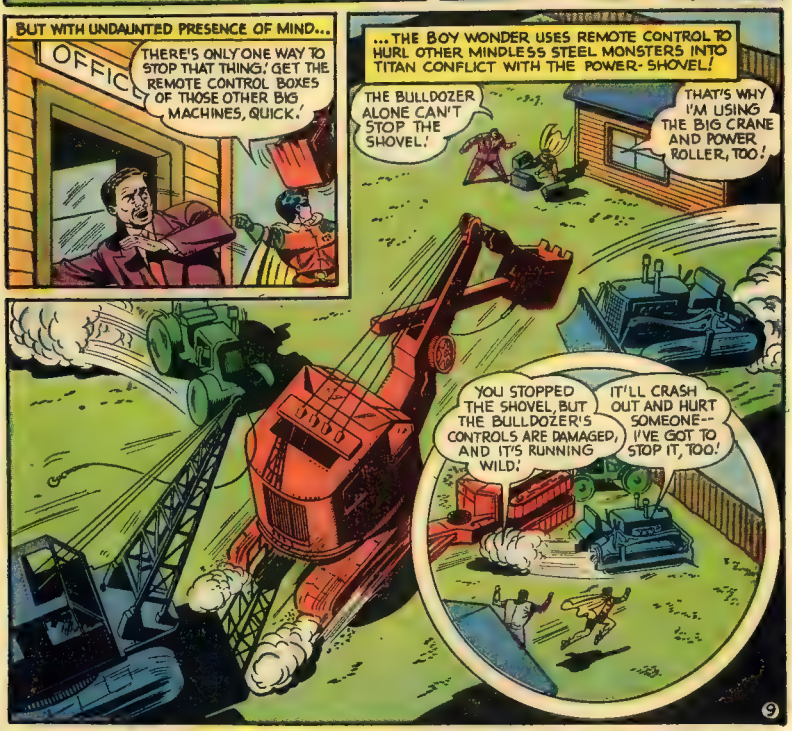
BUT ONCE THE NEW "GUARDS" ARE ADMITTED...
YOU MUST BE THE NEW GUARDS HEY--!
MY ELECTRIC UMBRELLA'S SHOCK-POWER WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU--AND WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT GOLD SHIPMENT.'
THERE COMES BATMAN.'
EGAD, HE CAUGHT ON TO MY MOCKING BIRD TRICK! QUICK, UNFASTEN THOSE MOORING-ROPES AND START UP THE BLIMP AT ONCE! WE'LL ESCAPE IN IT IN TRUE BIRD STYLE.'
THEY'LL GET AWAY.'
NO! GRAB ONTO THAT TRAILING FRONT MOORING-ROPE.'
THEY GRABBED OUR FRONT MOORING-ROPE! AND WE CAN'T CUT IT, FOR WE CAN'T GET AT IT.'
NOW WE'LL GIVE OUR FEATHERED FRIEND A TOW.'
THE POWERFUL BATMOBILE TOWS THE LITTLE BLIMP SPEEDILY DOWN A NEARBY HIGHWAY UNTIL...
THE BLIMP'S MOTORS CAN'T PULL AGAINST THE BATMOBILE.'
EGAD, THIS IS SERIOUS. LOOK AHEAD.'
HE'S GOING TO TOW OUR BLIMP INTO THAT TUNNEL, AND WRECK US.'
THEN IT'S TIME TO LEAVE A SINKING SHIP!

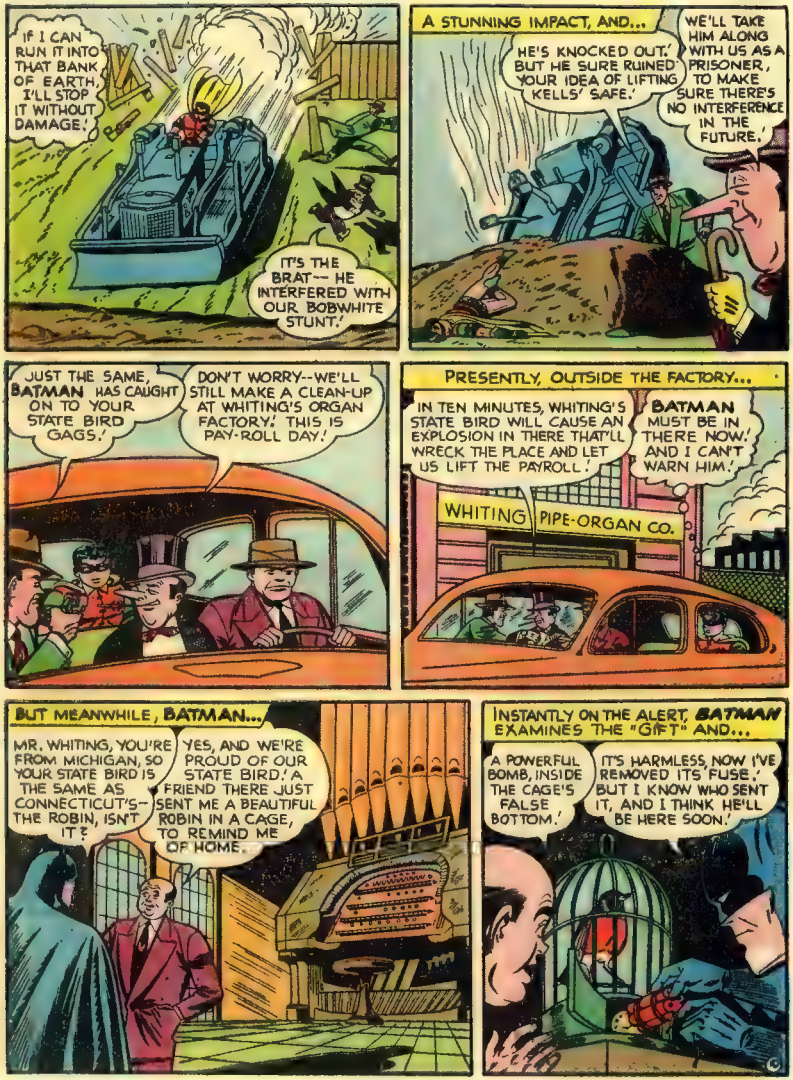

UNFORTUNATELY THE GOLD IS TOO HEAVY TO TAKE WITH US, OR I'D IMITATE A GOLDFINCH!
GOOD-- I FIGURED THIS WOULD SCARE THEM OUT OF THE BLIMP!
A MOMENT LATER...
THERE THEY GO!
BUT WE'VE GOT TO GET THIS BLIMP SAFELY BACK TO ITS HANGAR!
AFTER RETURNING THE BLIMP AND FREEING LANE...
THE PENGUIN UNDOUBTEDLY HAS COOKED UP STATE BIRD GAGS TO ROB THE OTHER TWO PATRONS—MORLEY KELLS OF THE REMOTE CONTROL COMPANY, AND WILLIAM WHITING, THE ORGAN MANUFACTURER.
AND HE'LL WORK EVEN FASTER NOW THAT WE'RE ON HIS TRAIL!
WE'LL SPLIT UP, TO PROTECT BOTH PATRONS.' YOU CHECK WITH KELLS, WHOSE PLANT IS NEAR HERE— I'LL DRIVE TO WHITING'S ORGAN FACTORY.'
I'LL CALL YOU BY UTILITY-BELT RADIO IF I FIND THE PENGUIN.'
SOON, AT THE FACTORY WHERE RADIO REMOTE CONTROL DEVICES ARE FITTED TO ALL KINDS OF MACHINES...
MR. KELLS, YOU SAY YOUR NATIVE STATE IS RHODE ISLAND, SO YOUR STATE BIRD IS THE BOBWHITE.' HAS ANYTHING INVOLVING A BOBWHITE HAPPENED HERE?
WHY, NO... THERE'VE BEEN NO BIRDS HERE. BUT WAIT A MOMENT--
WE RECEIVED AN ORDER TO FIT THAT POWER-SHOVEL WITH RADIO REMOTE CONTROL: THE ORDER WAS SIGNED BY A MR. ROBERT WHITE.'
ROBERT WHITE--BOBWHITE-- A PENGUIN STATE-BIRD GAG! YOU MUST DISMANTLE THOSE CONTROLS AT ONCE.'


BUT AT THAT MOMENT...
THE POWER-SHOVEL'S COMING TOWARD MY OFFICE!
THE "ROBERT WHITE" WHO HAD YOU FIT IT UP WAS THE PENGUIN— AND HE'S OPERATING IT NOW BY REMOTE CONTROL!


NICE OF KELLS TO FIT UP THAT POWER-SHOVEL FOR ME TO USE, WASN'T IT?
HAW, HAW--WE'LL US IT NOW TO SCOOP UP HIS OFFICE SAFE AND BRING IT OUT TO US!

BUT WITH UNDAUNTED PRESENCE OF MIND...
OFFICE
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO STOP THAT THING! GET THE REMOTE CONTROL BOXES OF THOSE OTHER BIG MACHINES, QUICK!


...THE BOY WONDER USES REMOTE CONTROL TO HURL OTHER MINDLESS STEEL MONSTERS INTO TITAN CONFLICT WITH THE POWER-SHOVEL!
THE BULLDOZER ALONE CAN'T STOP THE SHOVEL!
THAT'S WHY I'M USING THE BIG CRANE AND POWER ROLLER, TOO!
YOU STOPPED THE SHOVEL, BUT THE BULLDOZER'S CONTROLS ARE DAMAGED, AND IT'S RUNNING WILD!
IT'LL CRASH OUT AND HURT SOMEONE-- I'VE GOT TO STOP IT, TOO!


IF I CAN RUN IT INTO THAT BANK OF EARTH, I'LL STOP IT WITHOUT DAMAGE.'
IT'S THE BRAT-- HE INTERFERED WITH OUR BOBWHITE STUNT.'
A STUNNING IMPACT, AND...
HE'S KNOCKED OUT.' BUT HE SURE RUINED YOUR IDEA OF LIFTING KELLS' SAFE.'
WE'LL TAKE HIM ALONG WITH US AS A PRISONER, TO MAKE SURE THERE'S NO INTERFERENCE IN THE FUTURE.'
JUST THE SAME, BATMAN HAS CAUGHT ON TO YOUR STATE BIRD GAGS.'
DON'T WORRY--WE'LL STILL MAKE A CLEAN-UP AT WHITING'S ORGAN FACTORY.' THIS IS PAY-ROLL DAY!
PRESENTLY, OUTSIDE THE FACTORY...
IN TEN MINUTES, WHITING'S STATE BIRD WILL CAUSE AN EXPLOSION IN THERE THAT'LL WRECK THE PLACE AND LET US LIFT THE PAYROLL.'
BATMAN MUST BE IN THERE NOW.' AND I CAN'T WARN HIM.'
WHITING PIPE-ORGAN CO.
BUT MEANWHILE, BATMAN...
MR. WHITING, YOU'RE FROM MICHIGAN, SO YOUR STATE BIRD IS THE SAME AS CONNECTICUT'S-- THE ROBIN, ISN'T IT?
YES, AND WE'RE PROUD OF OUR STATE BIRD.' A FRIEND THERE JUST SENT ME A BEAUTIFUL ROBIN IN A CAGE, TO REMIND ME OF HOME.
INSTANTLY ON THE ALERT, BATMAN EXAMINES THE "GIFT" AND...
A POWERFUL BOMB, INSIDE THE CAGE'S FALSE BOTTOM.'
IT'S HARMLESS, NOW I'VE REMOVED ITS FUSE.' BUT I KNOW WHO SENT IT, AND I THINK HE'LL BE HERE SOON.'

NO EXPLOSION! COULD MY ROBIN GAG HAVE GONE WRONG!
LOOK, THE BATMOBILE! THAT MEANS BATMAN'S IN THERE-- HE'S QUEERED THINGS AGAIN!
HE HASN'T WON THIS TIME-- WE'RE STILL GOING TO ROB WHITING BY MEANS OF A ROBIN! BRING THE BRAT WITH US, AND KEEP HIM COVERED!
I GET IT! WE'VE GOT BATMAN WHERE WE WANT HIM THIS TIME!
IN A MOMENT...
BATMAN, MAKE WHITING HAND OVER THAT PAYROLL OR THE BRAT, HERE, WILL PAY THE PENALTY!
WITH THAT GUN TRAINED ON ROBIN, I DAREN'T START ANYTHING! BUT WAIT--THERE'S ONE CHANCE--
SURREPTITIOUSLY SWITCHING ON THE AIR-COMPRESSOR OF THE GIANT ELECTRIC PIPE-ORGAN...
I CAN'T LET ROBIN BE HARMED!
I WAS SURE YOU'D COOPERATE!
...BATMAN SUDDENLY PRESSES DOWN A PEDAL, AND THE DEAFENING DIAPASON OF THE GIANT ORGAN ROARS FORTH!
MY EARS!
IT HURTS MINE, TOO, BUT IT GIVES ME THE MOMENT I NEED!

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE INSTANT IN WHICH THE CROOKS NEGLECT TO COVER ROBIN...
SWEET MUSIC, EH, MUG?
IT WAS A SOUR NOTE FOR ME!
ARE YOU HUNTING FOR THE LOST CHORD, PENGUIN?
NO, BUT--
MAYBE MY EXTENSION HANDLE UMBRELLA WILL MAKE YOU LOSE INTEREST IN THE CHASE.'
I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN THAT UMBRELLA HAD A SURPRISE.'
BUT AS THE PENGUIN TRIES TO ESCAPE, BATMAN PRESSES A KEY AND...
NOW TO JUMP-- BUT WHAT'S THIS? THE AIR-BLAST FROM THAT ORGAN-PIPE IS CARRYING ME UPWARD!
THEY SAY MUSIC IS VERY ELEVATING.'
LET ME DOWN AND I'LL SURRENDER.'
THAT'S FUNNY-- I DIDN'T KNOW PENGUINS EVER SANG.'
LATER...
THIS ISN'T A STATE BIRD, BUT I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE IT-- IT'S A BRAZILIAN UMBRELLA-BIRD, SAFELY CAGED.'
TAKE IT AWAY!
THE END

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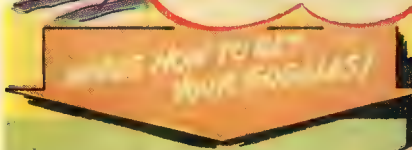

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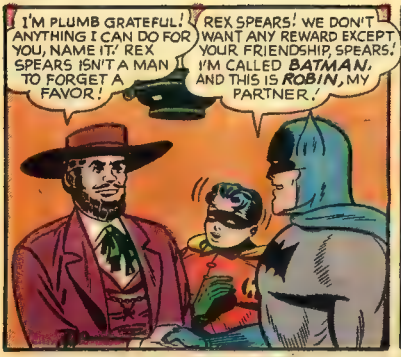
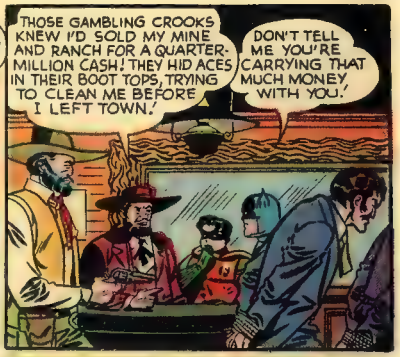
BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -
GOLD! MEN HAVE SPENT LIFETIMES SEARCHING FOR IT... AND MEN HAVE DIED FOR IT... NOW, HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO GO ALONG WITH BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, ON A NEW AND SENSATIONAL KIND OF TREASURE HUNT THAT STARTS IN TODAY'S GOTHAM CITY AND MOVES BACKWARD INTO THE WILDEST PERIOD OF THE WESTERN FRONTIER! YOU'LL THRILL TO THE DANGERS THAT THE DYNAMIC DUO ENCOUNTER AS THEY SEARCH FOR THE ANSWER TO A HALF-FORGOTTEN MYSTERY ON A TRAIL BLAZED NEARLY A CENTURY AGO BY...
"The BRAND of a HERO!"
BOB KANE

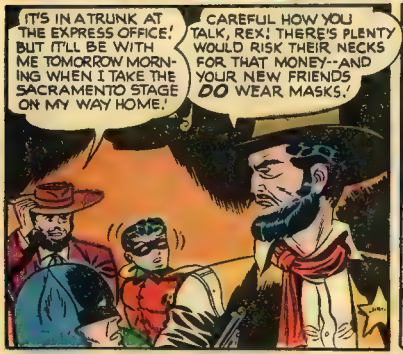
THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE IS ALWAYS OPEN TO FRIENDS--ESPECIALLY ONES WITH PROBLEMS, LIKE REX SPEARS...
COME IN, REX! I HOPE YOU'VE FINALLY DECIDED TO LET ME HELP SAVE YOUR FIRM FROM GOING BROKE!
THANKS, BRUCE--BUT IF I CAN'T HANDLE IT MYSELF, I DESERVE TO FAIL! HOWEVER, MAYBE I HAVE THE ANSWER RIGHT HERE!
LOOK! THIS PIECE OF BRANDED COWHIDE CAME IN THE MAIL TODAY WITH THIS LETTER!
IT'S YOUR FAMILY EMBLEM--A CROWN SIGNIFYING REX WHICH MEANS "KING", AND CROSSED SPEARS! WHAT ABOUT THE LETTER?
Dear Mr. Spears:
This here mark was made with an old branding iron I found in California. Oldtimers say it belonged to one of your ancestors, and I reckon maybe you'd want to have it.
I am in Gotham City with the Wild West Show. yours truly, Lorenzo Bagg
AS YOU KNOW, THE FIRST REX SPEARS, MY GREAT GRANDFATHER STRUCK IT RICH IN THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH NEARLY 100 YEARS AGO! HE BOUGHT A RANCH, AND IN 1854, ON HIS WAY BACK EAST TO HIS FAMILY--
--HE VANISHED WITH A QUARTER-MILLION DOLLARS! AND THAT BRANDING IRON MAY BE A CLUE TO THE MISSING FORTUNE!
WELL, WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S GET OVER TO THAT WILD WEST SHOW!
PRESENTLY, AT THE GOTHAM ARENA...
HMM... THE NAME OF LORENZO BAGG ISN'T IN THE PROGRAM! WE'LL LOOK HIM UP AFTER THE SHOW!
3
BEHIND THE SCENES, WHEN THE SHOW IS OVER...
PARDON ME, YOUNGSTER--BUT COULD YOU TELL ME WHERE TO FIND LORENZO BAGG?
SURE ENOUGH! I'M LORENZO BAGG!
2

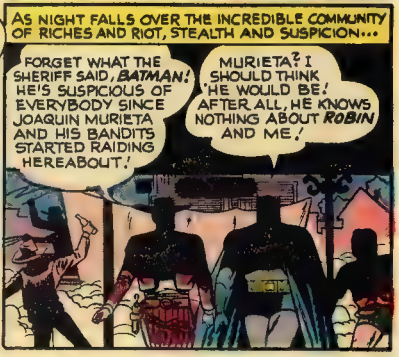
WELL! I'M REX SPEARS, AND THESE ARE MY FRIENDS, BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON.
PROUD TO KNOW YOU!
RECKON YOU'RE HERE ABOUT THAT BRANDING IRON. IT'S OVER THIS WAY, IN MY HEAD-QUARTERS.
HERE'S WHERE I BUNK, WITH THE HORSES--AND HERE'S THE IRON! I FOUND IT HALF-BURIED IN RATTLESNAKE CANYON NEAR THE OLD SACRAMENTO TRAIL, FIVE MILES FROM COLUMBIA, MY HOME TOWN!
COLUMBIA! THAT'S WHERE MY GREAT-GRAND-FATHER WAS TO START HOME FROM! AND THIS WOOD IS ROTTED AND THE METAL IS PITTED WITH RUST!
I WANT TO PAY YOU, LORENZO! I GUESS YOU COULD USE SOME MONEY, AND THIS MAY BE WORTH A GOOD DEAL TO ME!
NO, THANKS, MR. SPEARS! BEFORE MY DAD DIED, HE TOLD ME YOUR GREAT GRANDDAD HELPED MY GREAT GRANDDAD ONCE, SO WE BAGGS OWE YOU A FAVOR!
IT'S THE GENUINE ARTICLE, BRUCE! I'LL FIND SOME WAY OF REPAYING THAT YOUNGSTER!
QUITE A LAD, LORENZO--AND POSSIBLY HE'S GIVEN YOU A VALUABLE CLUE! BUT SIT TIGHT FOR A DAY OR SO, REX! IT WILL BE A COLD TRAIL AFTER 96 YEARS, AND I KNOW A MAN WHO MAY--UH--SIMPLIFY THINGS A LOT!
RODEO ARENA
LATER, PROFESSOR CARTER NICHOLS, NOTED GOTHAM CITY SCIENTIST, WELCOMES MIDNIGHT CALLERS...
BRUCE AND DICK! COULDN'T YOU SLEEP? OR IS YOUR PRESENCE REQUIRED IN THE DIM PAST, WHERE I HAVE SENT YOU SO OFTEN BEFORE?
RIGHT THE SECOND TIME, PROFESSOR!
THE STORY IS QUICKLY TOLD...AND SOON A HYPNOTIC SPELL ENABLES BRUCE AND DICK TO PIERCE ALL TIME BARRIERS...
YOU WILL SLEEP...SLEEP... AND WAKE IN THE YEAR 1854! YOU ARE DRIFTING BACK... BACK... BACK TO... 1854...
AND THEIR NEXT CONSCIOUS IMPRESSION IS OF A GOLD-RUSH TOWN OF THE OLD FRONTIER--NEW, BUSY, BOISTEROUS, VIOLENT...
SO THIS IS COLUMBIA IN ITS RIP-ROARING DAYS! DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE MIGHT FIND REX SPEARS, STRANGER?
YOU MIGHT FIND HIM MOST ANY PLACE IN TOWN! YOU MUST BE FURRINERS, DRESSED IN THEM FUNNY CLOTHES!
PRESS

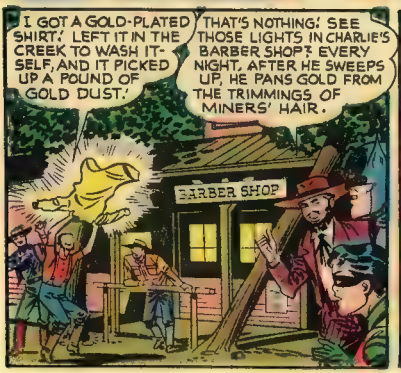
SUDDENLY...
SOUNDS LIKE THE BOYS IN THE LONG TOM TAVERN ARE HAVING AN ARGUMENT.
BUSINESS FOR BATMAN AND ROBIN ALREADY! WE'LL SLIP BETWEEN THESE STORES TO SWITCH!
BANG! BANG!
SECONDS LATER, THE TIDE OF AN UNEVEN BATTLE IN THE PAST IS TURNED BY--HEROES OF THE FUTURE!
I DON'T LIKE YOU COYOTES TRYING TO KILL ME ANY MORE THAN I LIKE BEING CHEATED AT POKER!
SOMEBODY IS BUTTING IN! I'LL FIX- UH! MY FOOT!
FRONTIER DESPERADOES, USED TO FAST AND FURIOUS ACTION, ARE BEWILDERED BY THE LIGHTNING TACTICS OF THE DYNAMIC DUO...
EXCUSE MY BACK, CHUM! IT HITS HARDER THIS WAY!
LIGHTS OUT FOR YOU WITH THE BAT ON YOUR CHEST!
LIGHTS? THANKS FOR THE SUGGESTION!
OUCH!
IF YOU THINK THAT HURT, TRY THIS FOR SIZE!
CUSTOMERS FOR THE CALABOOSE, EH?
4

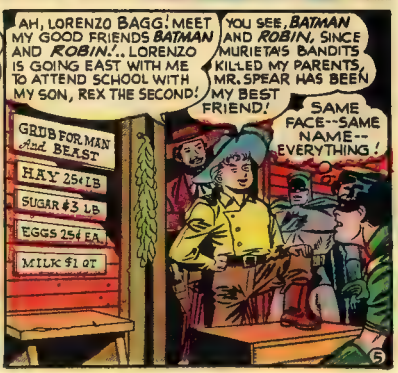

I'M PLUMB GRATEFUL! ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU, NAME IT! REX SPEARS ISN'T A MAN TO FORGET A FAVOR!
REX SPEARS! WE DON'T WANT ANY REWARD EXCEPT YOUR FRIENDSHIP, SPEARS! I'M CALLED BATMAN, AND THIS IS ROBIN, MY PARTNER!


THOSE GAMBLING CROOKS KNEW I'D SOLD MY MINE AND RANCH FOR A QUARTER-MILLION CASH! THEY HID ACES IN THEIR BOOT TOPS, TRYING TO CLEAN ME BEFORE I LEFT TOWN!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE CARRYING THAT MUCH MONEY, WITH YOU!

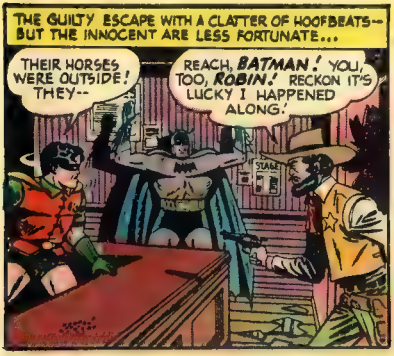

IT'S IN A TRUNK AT THE EXPRESS OFFICE! BUT IT'LL BE WITH ME TOMORROW MORNING WHEN I TAKE THE SACRAMENTO STAGE ON MY WAY HOME!
CAREFUL HOW YOU TALK, REX! THERE'S PLENTY WOULD RISK THEIR NECKS FOR THAT MONEY--AND YOUR NEW FRIENDS DO WEAR MASKS!

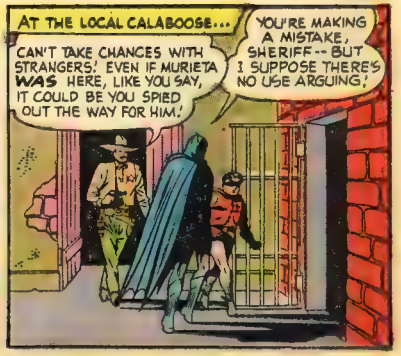

AS NIGHT FALLS OVER THE INCREDIBLE COMMUNITY OF RICHES AND RIOT, STEALTH AND SUSPICION...
FORGET WHAT THE SHERIFF SAID, BATMAN! HE'S SUSPICIOUS OF EVERYBODY SINCE JOAQUIN MURIETA AND HIS BANDITS STARTED RAIDING HEREABOUT!
MURIETA? I SHOULD THINK HE WOULD BE! AFTER ALL, HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT ROBIN AND ME!

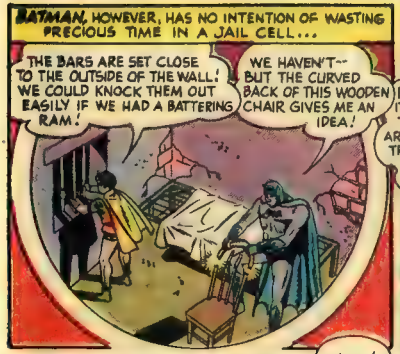

I GOT A GOLD-PLATED SHIRT! LEFT IT IN THE CREEK TO WASH ITSELF, AND IT PICKED UP A POUND OF GOLD DUST!
THAT'S NOTHING! SEE THOSE LIGHTS IN CHARLIE'S BARBER SHOP? EVERY NIGHT, AFTER HE SWEEPS UP, HE PANS GOLD FROM THE TRIMMINGS OF MINERS' HAIR!
BARBER SHOP

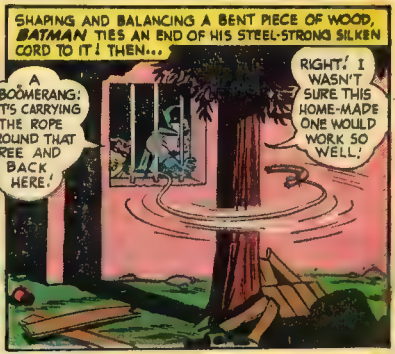

AH, LORENZO BAGG! MEET MY GOOD FRIENDS BATMAN AND ROBIN!.. LORENZO IS GOING EAST WITH ME TO ATTEND SCHOOL WITH MY SON, REX THE SECOND!
YOU SEE, BATMAN AND ROBIN, SINCE MURIETA'S BANDITS KILLED MY PARENTS, MR. SPEAR HAS BEEN MY BEST FRIEND!
SAME FACE--SAME NAME--EVERYTHING!
GRUB FOR MAN And BEAST
HAY 25¢ LB
SUGAR #3 LB
EGGS 25¢ EA.
MILK $1 QT

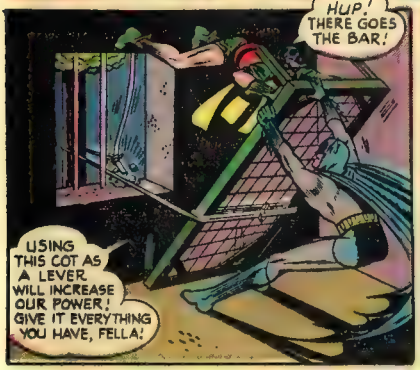
LATER, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN STROLL ALONG...
PST! SOMEONE'S INSIDE THE EXPRESS OFFICE WITH A LIGHTED CANDLE!
IT SOUNDS FUNNY, BUT THAT KID MUST BE THE GREAT-GRANDFATHER OF THE OTHER LORENZO BAGG!
AND HERE, GOING ABOUT HIS DANGEROUS BUSINESS WITH SINISTER CALM, IS CALIFORNIA'S MOST NOTORIOUS OUTLAW OF ALL TIME--JOAQUIN MURIETA, SCOURGE OF THE GOLD FIELDS!
CAREFUL WITH THE LIGHT, JOAQUIN! SOMEONE WILL SEE!
DO YOU NOT REALIZE, VASQUEZ, THAT I TOO, MUST SEE, IN ORDER TO FIND THE MONEY CHEST OF SPEARS!
NEXT INSTANT...
HAVE I THE PLEASURE OF MEETING MURIETA, THE BANDIT WHO IS OVERRIPE FOR HANGING?
THE PLEASURE WILL BE MINE, I THINK, GRINGO--SINCE I AM ARMED AND YOU ARE NOT!
THERE ARE OTHER WEAPONS BESIDES KNIVES AND GUNS!
CRUDE BUT EFFECTIVE! MY SHOT WILL WAKE THE TOWN, VASQUEZ! LET US VAMOS! DO NOT WASTE TIME SHOOTING THIS MEDDLESOME YANQUI!
WHY KILL WHEN THERE IS NO PROFIT IN IT? WE CAN TRY AGAIN FOR THE MONEY IN THE MORNING, WHEN THE STAGECOACH LEAVES!
AI! PERHAPS YOU ARE RIGHT, JOAQUIN!

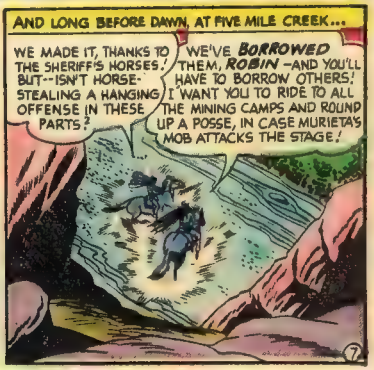

THE GUILTY ESCAPE WITH A CLATTER OF HOOFBEATS--BUT THE INNOCENT ARE LESS FORTUNATE...
THEIR HORSES WERE OUTSIDE! THEY--
REACH, BATMAN! YOU, TOO, ROBIN! RECKON IT'S LUCKY I HAPPENED ALONG!
STAGE

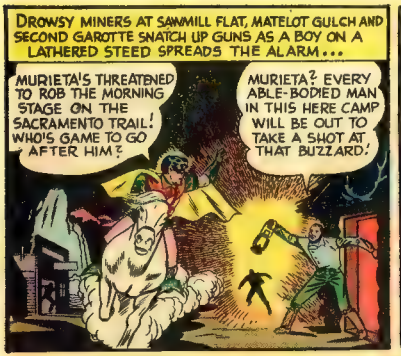

AT THE LOCAL CALABOOSE...
CAN'T TAKE CHANCES WITH STRANGERS! EVEN IF MURIETA WAS HERE, LIKE YOU SAY, IT COULD BE YOU SPIED OUT THE WAY FOR HIM!
YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE, SHERIFF -- BUT I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO USE ARGUING!

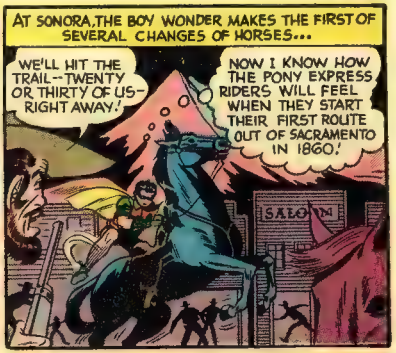

BATMAN, HOWEVER, HAS NO INTENTION OF WASTING PRECIOUS TIME IN A JAIL CELL...
THE BARS ARE SET CLOSE TO THE OUTSIDE OF THE WALL! WE COULD KNOCK THEM OUT EASILY IF WE HAD A BATTERING RAM!
WE HAVEN'T-- BUT THE CURVED BACK OF THIS WOODEN CHAIR GIVES ME AN IDEA!

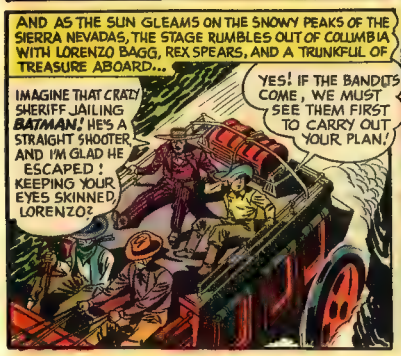

SHAPING AND BALANCING A BENT PIECE OF WOOD, BATMAN TIES AN END OF HIS STEEL-STRONG SILKEN CORD TO IT! THEN...
A BOOMERANG! IT'S CARRYING THE ROPE AROUND THAT TREE AND BACK HERE!
RIGHT! I WASN'T SURE THIS HOME-MADE ONE WOULD WORK SO WELL!

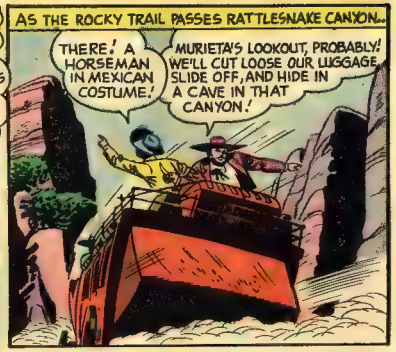

HUP! THERE GOES THE BAR!
USING THIS COT AS A LEVER WILL INCREASE OUR POWER! GIVE IT EVERYTHING YOU HAVE, FELLA!

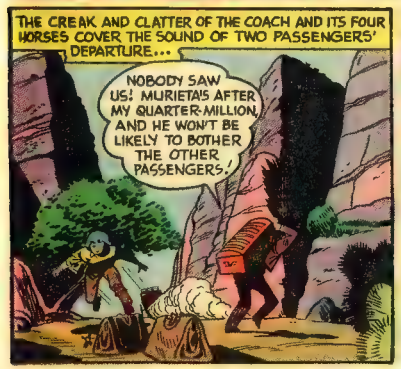

AND LONG BEFORE DAWN, AT FIVE MILE CREEK...
WE MADE IT, THANKS TO THE SHERIFF'S HORSES! BUT--ISN'T HORSE-STEALING A HANGING OFFENSE IN THESE PARTS?
WE'VE BORROWED THEM, ROBIN -AND YOU'LL HAVE TO BORROW OTHERS! I WANT YOU TO RIDE TO ALL THE MINING CAMPS AND ROUND UP A POSSE, IN CASE MURIETA'S MOB ATTACKS THE STAGE!

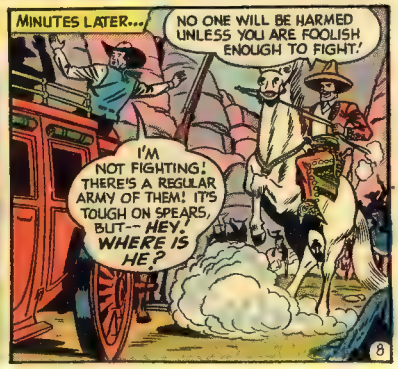

DROWSY MINERS AT SAWMILL FLAT, MATELOT GULCH AND SECOND GAROTTE SNATCH UP GUNS AS A BOY ON A LATHERED STEED SPREADS THE ALARM...
MURIETA'S THREATENED TO ROB THE MORNING STAGE ON THE SACRAMENTO TRAIL! WHO'S GAME TO GO AFTER HIM?
MURIETA? EVERY ABLE-BODIED MAN IN THIS HERE CAMP WILL BE OUT TO TAKE A SHOT AT THAT BUZZARD!


AT SONORA, THE BOY WONDER MAKES THE FIRST OF SEVERAL CHANGES OF HORSES...
WE'LL HIT THE TRAIL--TWENTY OR THIRTY OF US--RIGHT AWAY!
NOW I KNOW HOW THE PONY EXPRESS RIDERS WILL FEEL WHEN THEY START THEIR FIRST ROUTE OUT OF SACRAMENTO IN 1860!
SALOON


AND AS THE SUN GLEAMS ON THE SNOWY PEAKS OF THE SIERRA NEVADAS, THE STAGE RUMBLES OUT OF COLUMBIA WITH LORENZO BAGG, REX SPEARS, AND A TRUNKFUL OF TREASURE ABOARD...
IMAGINE THAT CRAZY SHERIFF JAILING BATMAN! HE'S A STRAIGHT SHOOTER AND I'M GLAD HE ESCAPED! KEEPING YOUR EYES SKINNED, LORENZO?
YES! IF THE BANDITS COME, WE MUST SEE THEM FIRST TO CARRY OUT YOUR PLAN!


AS THE ROCKY TRAIL PASSES RATTLESNAKE CANYON...
THERE! A HORSEMAN IN MEXICAN COSTUME!
MURIETA'S LOOKOUT, PROBABLY! WE'LL CUT LOOSE OUR LUGGAGE, SLIDE OFF, AND HIDE IN A CAVE IN THAT CANYON!


THE CREAK AND CLATTER OF THE COACH AND ITS FOUR HORSES COVER THE SOUND OF TWO PASSENGERS' DEPARTURE...
NOBODY SAW US! MURIETA'S AFTER MY QUARTER-MILLION, AND HE WON'T BE LIKELY TO BOTHER THE OTHER PASSENGERS!

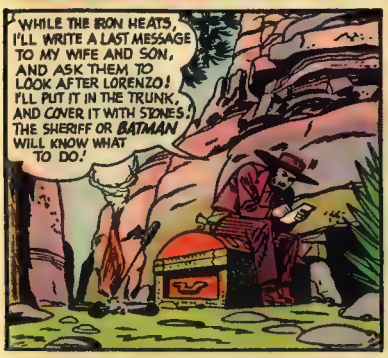

MINUTES LATER...
NO ONE WILL BE HARMED UNLESS YOU ARE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO FIGHT!
I'M NOT FIGHTING! THERE'S A REGULAR ARMY OF THEM! IT'S TOUGH ON SPEARS, BUT-- HEY! WHERE IS HE?

NONE SEES A GRIM, CAPED FIGURE CROUCHED HIGH ABOVE THE ROBBERY SCENE..
PAH! THE GRINGO SPEARS STAYED BEHIND WITH HIS MONEY, AND THERE IS BUT A PALTRY THOUSAND DOLLARS IN THE EXPRESS BOX!
SO SPEARS ISN'T ABOARD! JUST THE SAME I'LL DO WHAT I CAN TILL ROBIN'S POSSE SHOWS UP— IF IT'S GOING TO!
ABRUPTLY...
THE STRANGE MAN AND BOY WHO SURPRISED US IN THE EXPRESS OFFICE WARNED SPEARS! WE SHOULD HAVE KILLED THEM!
AI! A MAN-- OR A DEVIL WHO FLIES LIKE A BAT!
LET'S MIX IT UP A LITTLE, SHALL WE?
OOFF! YANQUI, FOR THIS YOU DIE!
BUT FISTS ALONE ARE FEEBLE WEAPONS AGAINST BULLETS! THE NEXT INSTANT..
VAMOS! THERE ARE HORSES-- MANY HORSES-- COMING!
NEVER AGAIN WILL YOU ATTACK JOAQUIN MURIETA!
ROBIN'S POSSE ARRIVES AT LAST, WITH ROARING GUNS AND THUNDERING HOOFS!
BATMAN! YOU'RE HURT!
JUST DIZZY! A BULLET GRAZED ME, BUT I'LL BE UP AND AROUND IN A MINUTE! THAT POSSE WILL TAKE CARE OF MURIETA! NICE WORK, ROBIN!

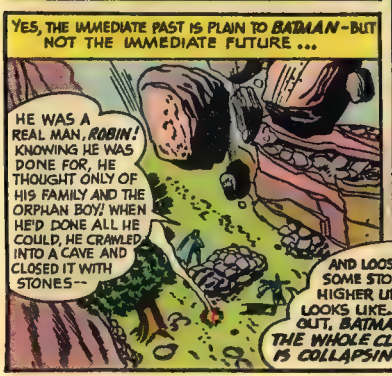
LATER, RIDING BACK TOWARD COLUMBIA, BATMAN AND ROBIN MEET A TROUBLED YOUNGSTER...
LORENZO! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU AND SPEARS? WHERE IS HE?
IN THE CANYON! SOMETHING IS WRONG, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT.' HE TOLD ME TO GIVE THIS MESSAGE TO YOU OR THE SHERIFF.'
Friend: I enclose $1,000 to care for my young friend Lorenzo Bagg until other arrangements can be made. Please search Rattlesnake Canyon for a tree branded by me. Nearby are gold, money and my will. If you discover what happened to me, do not tell Lorenzo. He has had enough of tragedy.
TAKE THIS HORSE, LORENZO, AND GIVE THE ENVELOPE TO THE SHERIFF.' I'LL GO TO SPEARS! AND DON'T SHOW THAT MESSAGE TO ANYONE ELSE!
CERTAINLY NOT.' I GAVE MR. SPEARS MY WORD.'
PRESENTLY...
HERE'S THE BRANDED TREE, BATMAN. AND A PILE OF STONES, PROBABLY COVERING THE GOLD AND MONEY THE NOTE MENTIONED.'
AND HERE'S A DEAD RATTLESNAKE... AND A MAN'S FOOTPRINTS LEADING TO WHAT MUST HAVE BEEN A CAVE TILL SOMEONE SEALED IT WITH STONES AND RUBBLE--FROM THE INSIDE.'
BATMAN READS THE FAINT SIGNS--AND ALMOST AS VIVIDLY AS IF IT WERE HAPPENING NOW, HIS KEEN MIND VISUALIZES THE RECENT TRAGEDY IN THE CANYON! AND THIS WAS THE WAY OF IT...
THERE'S A CAVE--BUT IT'S NOT VERY BIG!
A RATTLESNAKE, COILED TO STRIKE AT LORENZO! NO TIME TO WARN HIM OR HUNT FOR A WEAPON! ONLY ONE WAY TO SAVE HIM...
HUH-?
LOOK OUT.'
IT GOT ME--IN THE CHEST, NEAR THE HEART! CAN'T USE A TOURNIQUET, OR GET HELP IN TIME.'
LORENZO MUSTN'T KNOW! HE'S COUNTING ON ME, AFTER LOSING HIS FOLKS--AND I CAN'T ROB HIM OF HIS LAST HOPE ALL-AT ONCE.'
10

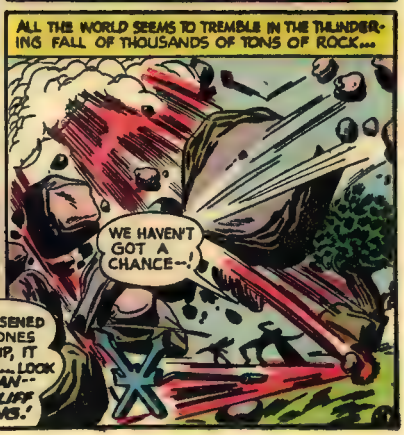
A STONE FINISHES THE DEADLY SNAKE! THEN...
CLOSE CALL, EH? I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING IMPORTANT. WILL YOU TAKE A NOTE FROM ME TO THE SHERIFF OR BATMAN? AND PROMISE TO KEEP YOUR CHIN UP IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG!
I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU SAY! BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND! IS SOMETHING—GOING WRONG!

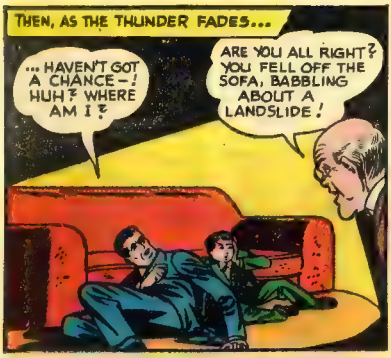
POOR LITTLE FELLOW! I THINK HE DOES UNDERSTAND—VAGUELY—BUT HE'S HOPING FOR THE BEST, AND DOING WHAT I ASKED! IT'S TOUGH ON BOTH OF US! BUT WHAT CAN I DO?


WHILE THE IRON HEATS, I'LL WRITE A LAST MESSAGE TO MY WIFE AND SON, AND ASK THEM TO LOOK AFTER LORENZO! I'LL PUT IT IN THE TRUNK, AND COVER IT WITH STONES! THE SHERIFF OR BATMAN WILL KNOW WHAT TO DO!

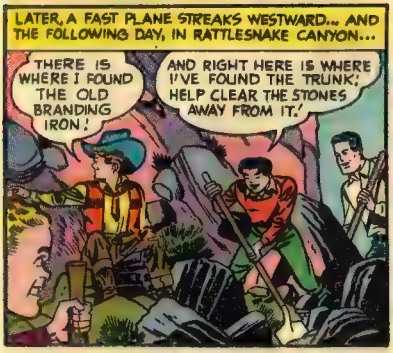
THIS BRAND WILL TELL THEM WHERE TO LOOK! I'M SICK—AND THE PAIN IS GETTING WORSE—BUT THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO DO NOW BUT CRAWL INTO THE CAVE AND SEAL THE OPENING WITH STONES TO KEEP COYOTES AND BUZZARDS AWAY!

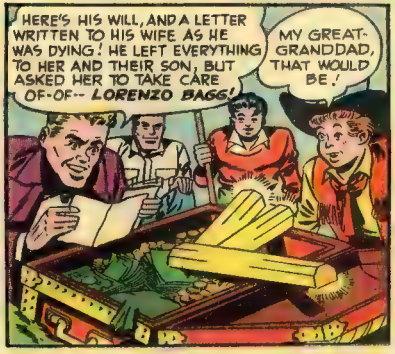

YES, THE IMMEDIATE PAST IS PLAIN TO BATMAN—BUT NOT THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE ...
HE WAS A REAL MAN, ROBIN! KNOWING HE WAS DONE FOR, HE THOUGHT ONLY OF HIS FAMILY AND THE ORPHAN BOY! WHEN HE'D DONE ALL HE COULD, HE CRAWLED INTO A CAVE AND CLOSED IT WITH STONES--
AND LOOSENED SOME STONES HIGHER UP, IT LOOKS LIKE... LOOK OUT, BATMAN-- THE WHOLE CLIFF IS COLLAPSING!

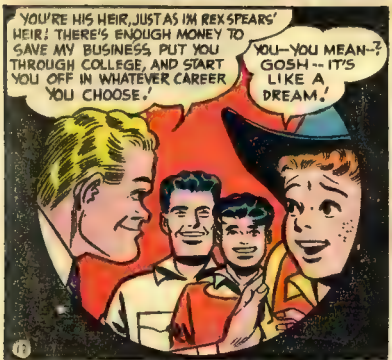

ALL THE WORLD SEEMS TO TREMBLE IN THE THUNDERING FALL OF THOUSANDS OF TONS OF ROCK...
WE HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE--!

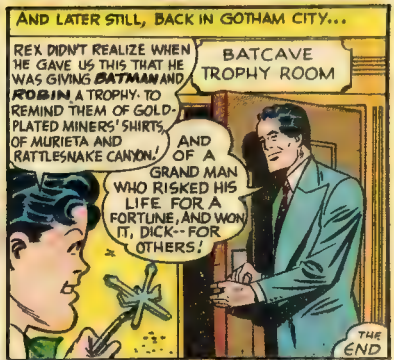

THEN, AS THE THUNDER FADES...
... HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE--! HUH? WHERE AM I?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU FELL OFF THE SOFA, BABBLING ABOUT A LANDSLIDE!

THAT'S IT! THE SHERIFF COULDN'T FIND THE BRANDED TREE OR THE CHEST BECAUSE THE LANDSLIDE BURIED EVERYTHING! NO WONDER IT TURNED INTO A 96-YEAR-OLD MYSTERY!
BUT WE KNOW EXACTLY WHERE EVERYTHING IS! LET'S HUNT UP REX SPEARS--AND LORENZO BAGG, TOO!


LATER, A FAST PLANE STREAKS WESTWARD... AND THE FOLLOWING DAY, IN RATTLESNAKE CANYON...
THERE IS WHERE I FOUND THE OLD BRANDING IRON!
AND RIGHT HERE IS WHERE I'VE FOUND THE TRUNK! HELP CLEAR THE STONES AWAY FROM IT!


HERE'S HIS WILL, AND A LETTER WRITTEN TO HIS WIFE AS HE WAS DYING! HE LEFT EVERYTHING TO HER AND THEIR SON, BUT ASKED HER TO TAKE CARE OF-OF-- LORENZO BAGG!
MY GREAT-GRANDDAD, THAT WOULD BE!


YOU'RE HIS HEIR, JUST AS I'M REX SPEARS' HEIR! THERE'S ENOUGH MONEY TO SAVE MY BUSINESS PUT YOU THROUGH COLLEGE, AND START YOU OFF IN WHATEVER CAREER YOU CHOOSE.'
YOU--YOU MEAN--? GOSH--IT'S LIKE A DREAM!


AND LATER STILL, BACK IN GOTHAM CITY...
REX DIDN'T REALIZE WHEN HE GAVE US THIS THAT HE WAS GIVING BATMAN AND ROBIN A TROPHY TO REMIND THEM OF GOLD-PLATED MINERS' SHIRTS OF MURIETA AND RATTLESNAKE CANYON!
BATCAVE TROPHY ROOM
AND OF A GRAND MAN WHO RISKED HIS LIFE FOR A FORTUNE, AND WON IT, DICK--FOR OTHERS!
THE END

NOW! THE 1,001 SECRETS OF BATMAN AND ROBIN'S HALL OF TROPHIES EXPOSED BY THE SINISTER DR. DOOM - IN THE APRIL ISSUE OF DETECTIVE COMICS, NOW ON SALE!

ADVERTISEMENT

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A REAL RING
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- Straight Arrow's mystic pass words secretly engraved!
- Indian good luck charm!
- Original—Exclusive!
- No other like it!

LOOK! Full-faced carved head of Straight Arrow embossed on solid metal!

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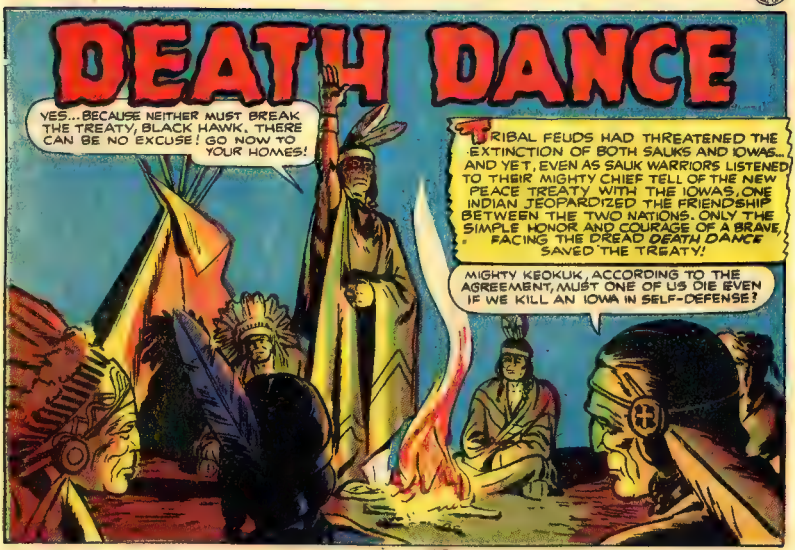
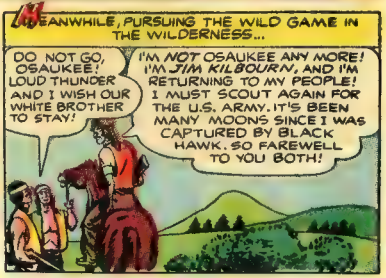
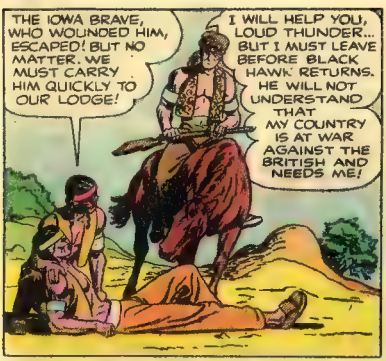

DEATH DANCE
YES... BECAUSE NEITHER MUST BREAK THE TREATY, BLACK HAWK. THERE CAN BE NO EXCUSE! GO NOW TO YOUR HOMES!
TRIBAL FEUDS HAD THREATENED THE EXTINCTION OF BOTH SAUKS AND IOWAS... AND YET, EVEN AS SAUK WARRIORS LISTENED TO THEIR MIGHTY CHIEF TELL OF THE NEW PEACE TREATY WITH THE IOWAS, ONE INDIAN JEOPARDIZED THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. ONLY THE SIMPLE HONOR AND COURAGE OF A BRAVE, FACING THE DREAD DEATH DANCE SAVED THE TREATY!
MIGHTY KEOKUK, ACCORDING TO THE AGREEMENT, MUST ONE OF US DIE EVEN IF WE KILL AN IOWA IN SELF-DEFENSE?

HAS YOUR WHITE SON OSAUKEE RUN AWAY, BLACK HAWK?
NO, RED EAGLE, HE IS HAPPY WITH US. EVEN AS WE NOW CELEBRATE THE PEACE, HE AND MY TWO SONS, LOUD THUNDER AND NASOMSEE ARE ON A HUNTING TRIP!


MEANWHILE, PURSUING THE WILD GAME IN THE WILDERNESS...
DO NOT GO, OSAUKEE! LOUD THUNDER AND I WISH OUR WHITE BROTHER TO STAY!
I'M NOT OSAUKEE ANY MORE! I'M JIM KILBOURN, AND I'M RETURNING TO MY PEOPLE! I MUST SCOUT AGAIN FOR THE U.S. ARMY. IT'S BEEN MANY MOONS SINCE I WAS CAPTURED BY BLACK HAWK. SO FAREWELL TO YOU BOTH!

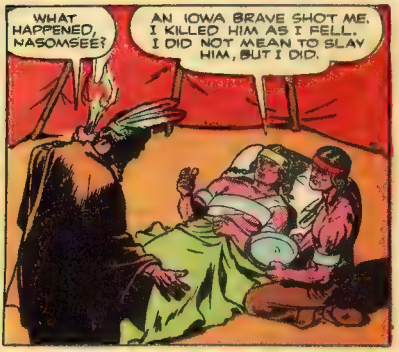
DON'T SHOOT!! HE IS NOT AN ENEMY... HE IS MY WHITE BROTHER!

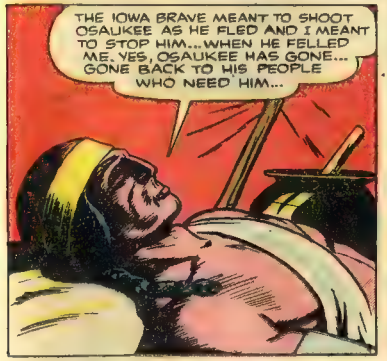
CRACK!


THE IOWA BRAVE, WHO WOUNDED HIM, ESCAPED! BUT NO MATTER. WE MUST CARRY HIM QUICKLY TO OUR LODGE!
I WILL HELP YOU, LOUD THUNDER... BUT I MUST LEAVE BEFORE BLACK HAWK RETURNS. HE WILL NOT UNDERSTAND THAT MY COUNTRY IS AT WAR AGAINST THE BRITISH AND NEEDS ME!

RETURNING FROM THE PEACE CELEBRATION, BLACK HAWK AND RED EAGLE DISCOVER SIGNS OF THE SHOOTING...
LOOK! A TORN SAUK SHIRT... AND SIGNS OF A STRUGGLE!
AND THERE ARE FOOTPRINTS! WE MUST FOLLOW THE TRAIL!

IT LEADS TO MY OWN LODGE! NASOMSEE, LOUD THUNDER, OSAUKEE! ONE OF THEM HAS BEEN FIGHTING! WE SHALL SOON SEE!

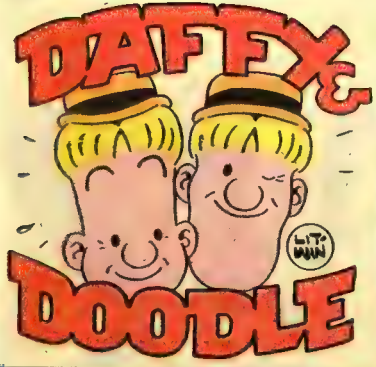

WHAT HAPPENED, NASOMSEE?
AN IOWA BRAVE SHOT ME. I KILLED HIM AS I FELL. I DID NOT MEAN TO SLAY HIM, BUT I DID.

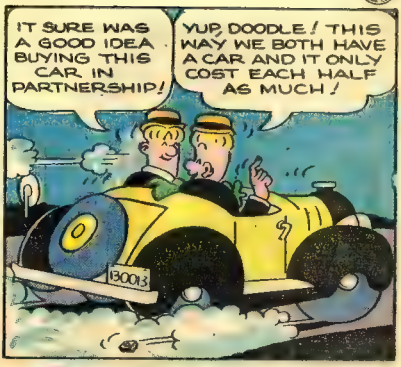

THE IOWA BRAVE MEANT TO SHOOT OSAUKEE AS HE FLED AND I MEANT TO STOP HIM... WHEN HE FELLED ME, YES, OSAUKEE HAS GONE... GONE BACK TO HIS PEOPLE WHO NEED HIM...

IT IS RULED THAT WE CANNOT KILL, EVEN IN SELF-DEFENSE! MY SON, YOU WILL HAVE TO DIE! YOUR LIFE MUST BE FORFEITED FOR THE ONE YOU TOOK! AND OSAUKEE IS GONE! VERY WELL... WE COULD NOT HOLD HIM CAPTIVE FOR ALL TIME!
2

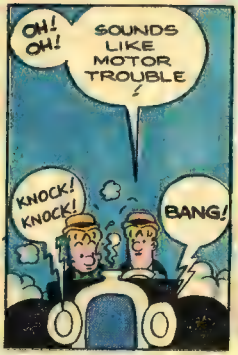
SEE HOW HE SLEEPS, FATHER!
NEXT MORNING...
HE DOES NOT DREAM OF THE DUTY BEFORE HIM! COME, WE MUST WAKE HIM. UNDER THE TERMS OF OUR TREATY, THE BRAVE WHO BREAKS THE RULES MUST DIE! IT IS MY DUTY TO DELIVER HIM TO THEIR VILLAGE!
NASOMSEE CANNOT GO! HE IS BADLY WOUNDED! I WILL TAKE HIS PLACE. AS HIS OLDER BROTHER, I WILL DIE FOR HIM AND THE HONOR OF MY PEOPLE!
YOU ARE A TRUE BROTHER, LOUD THUNDER! MAY THE GREAT SPIRIT WATCH OVER YOU. COME, WE WILL SEE CHIEF KEOKUK AND TRY TO GAIN HIS CONSENT!
SPEAK, BLACK HAWK!
MY SON NASOMSEE HAS BROKEN THE TREATY WITH THE IOWAS. LOUD THUNDER REQUESTS THAT HE BE HIS SUBSTITUTE IN PAYING THE PENALTY!
LATER, THAT MORNING...
VERY WELL! LET GO OF OUR BRIDLES. LOUD THUNDER AND I ARE READY!
FAREWELL, LOUD THUNDER! EVEN THE LARKS IN THE MEADOW WILL SILENCE THEIR SINGING VOICES AT YOUR DEPARTURE!
THROUGH MESQUITE AND SAGE, OVER PLAIN AND MOUNTAIN, FATHER AND SON TRAVELLED UNTIL ONE MORNING... DAYS LATER...
WHY DO WE STOP? ARE WE NEAR THE IOWA VILLAGE, FATHER?
YES, MY SON. THERE BEYOND THE KNOLL LIES THE ENCAMPMENT OF THE IOWA WARRIORS!
DO NOT GRIEVE FOR ME, MY FATHER. I AM GIVING MY LIFE FOR MY BROTHER WHO TRIED TO HELP ANOTHER, TOO!
GO! WALK WITH YOUR HEAD HIGH! YOU ARE A MAN OF GREAT HONOR, MY SON, LOUD THUNDER! I AM PROUD TO HAVE BEEN YOUR FATHER!
3

FATHER, MY FATHER! I WILL GO UP TO THE MOUNTAIN AND THERE I WILL LIGHT A FIRE TO THE FEET OF THE GREAT SPIRIT...
I HAVE COME TO TAKE THE PLACE OF MY BROTHER, NASOMSEE. HE IS BADLY WOUNDED AND CANNOT TRAVEL!
THE DEATH DANCE IS NOT PLEASANT, LOUD THUNDER, AS YOU WILL COME TO LEARN!
HOLD! LOUD THUNDER HAS SHOWN NO FEAR. HIS BRAVERY IS SO GREAT THAT WE MUST LET HIM RETURN TO HIS FATHER, BLACK HAWK!
AIEEE!
YIIIEEE!
EYAH!
SOMETIME LATER, IN THE GRIEVING SAUK VILLAGE...
LISTEN, SHOTS! AND THE HORSE IS COMING THIS WAY!
HOLD YOUR FIRE! WE WILL CAPTURE THE TRESPASSER!
IT IS LOUD THUNDER!
MY SON! ALIVE AND RETURNED TO ME!
WHAT HAPPENED? TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED!
THE IOWA BRAVES DANCED THEIR DEATH DANCE, BUT I WAS NOT AFRAID! THEN THEIR CHIEF TOLD THEM THAT JUSTICE WAS TO BE TEMPERED WITH MERCY. MY LIFE WAS TO BE SPARED BECAUSE I HAD THE COURAGE NOT ONLY TO REPLACE YOU, NASOMSEE... BUT I DID NOT FLINCH IN THE FACE OF DEATH!
THE END.

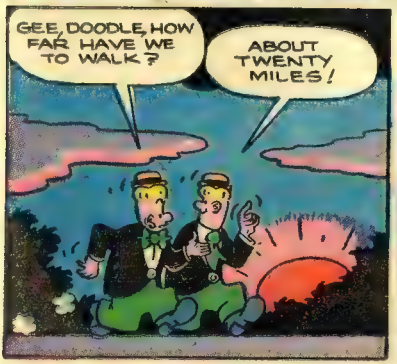

DAFFY &
LITTLE MAN
DOODLE

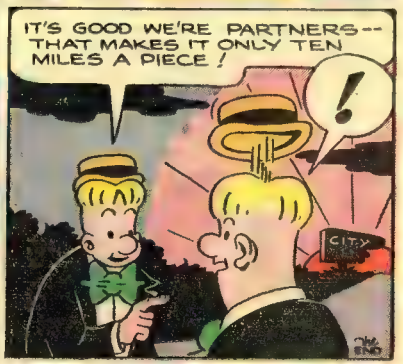

IT SURE WAS A GOOD IDEA BUYING THIS CAR IN PARTNERSHIP!
YUP, DOODLE! THIS WAY WE BOTH HAVE A CAR AND IT ONLY COST EACH HALF AS MUCH!
13001

IT'S GREAT TO HAVE A PAL TO DO THINGS WITH TOGETHER! SHARE AND SHARE ALIKE!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!


OH! OH!
SOUNDS LIKE MOTOR TROUBLE!
KNOCK! KNOCK!
BANG!

GOSH, DAFFY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE CAR--IT JUST WON'T GO! IT'S GETTING DARK, WE BETTER LEAVE IT HERE TILL TOMORROW AND START WALKING BACK!
OKAY, DOODLE!


GEE, DOODLE, HOW FAR HAVE WE TO WALK?
ABOUT TWENTY MILES!


IT'S GOOD WE'RE PARTNERS--THAT MAKES IT ONLY TEN MILES A PIECE!
!
CITY

BUGS that cannot be seen with the naked eye now can be killed by light which also is invisible. But while these germs are invisible to man, their wicked work leaves tell-tale "footprints" such as disease and food spoilage.

The war against microbes has known no armistice through the ages. Heat, chemicals and serums have been the three weapons available to either kill, cripple or maim them.

Heat, for example, is the principle used in sterilizing dishes and silverware with hot water; the chlorination of drinking water to make it safe to drink is an example of chemical treatment, while vaccination which prevents smallpox is an injection of a vaccine serum. Refrigeration keeps bacteria from growing but it doesn't kill them —merely seems to put them to sleep.

But heat, chemicals and serums never caught up with the air, one of the commonest sources of human infections and spoiled food.

So scientists devised a lamp to fire invisible, silent ultraviolet bullets which they knew from their experiments would blast to death man's enemies of the invisible world speedily, cheaply, conveniently and without a miss.

These foes are bacteria, viruses—the toughest microbes of them all to find—and the plant-like organisms that form mold.

One reason that physicians have had so much trouble knocking down infantile paralysis is that the disease is spread by viruses which they can't control because they cannot see except (in outline) under an electron microscope, the most powerful "eye" available to them.

The bacteria-"blitzing" lamp, which scientists aptly and promptly called the Sterilamp, has extremely tiny targets. 20,000 "mid-size" bacteria, form a line an inch long. And 250,000 of them could crowd into the space around the period at the end of this sentence.

The Sterilamp is a tube of special glass which will permit ultraviolet to pass. It contains a drop of mercury and a tiny amount of two gases. Electric current of the energy required to set the gases in motion is applied and the ultraviolet "machine gun" starts firing.

Hundreds of thousands of these lamps, developed in the Westinghouse laboratories, already are on guard in thousands of places, holding down the chances of persons passing on infections to others or of food spoiling. They keep a scientific vigil in school-

rooms, hospitals, homes, public meeting places, plants where foods, drugs and cosmetics are processed, in soda fountains and restaurants.

On the farm, the lamps protect livestock and poultry against disease and improve sanitation in the milk house.

One of the most important places for the lamps is in air conditioning ducts, killing germs that ride on the wings of recirculated air. Hospital operating rooms, where gowns, instruments and surgical dressings are sterile, use a special type of lamp mounted in the giant lighting fixture over the operating table and on the operating room walls to keep the air as germ-free as possible. The tubes also protect areas where baked goods are stored and handled.

Bacteria were first seen and described in 1683 by Anthony van Leeuwenhoek, a Dutch dry goods clerk who peered at the squirming micro-organisms through a magnifying glass he invented.

Almost 200 years intervened before Louis Pasteur discovered that disease, mold, fermentation and decay were by-products of bacteria. Proving that there was a way to kill bacteria by heat, he saved the French wine industry of his day by boiling out contaminating organisms in the wine. The heating process, known as Pasteurization, is carried over into today's milk industry.

After that, science moved faster in its assault on bacteria. A new weapon—chemicals—was summoned into the fight. Joseph Lister in 1867 conquered wound infections by applying carbolic acid dressings, setting the pattern for modern methods of antiseptics in surgery.

Both Pasteur and Robert Koch, Ehrlich's associate, developed vaccines or serums made from cultures of bacteria.

Then came A. Downes and T. P. Blunt, two Englishmen, who showed in 1877 that there was a medium of disinfection as simple as the sun. It was the ultra-violet in the sun's rays with power potent enough to kill bacteria.

Long research showed, however, that only a few of these rays in sunlight ever reach earth. That was when Westinghouse scientists succeeded in reproducing within a lamp the power to radiate bacteria-killing ultraviolet.

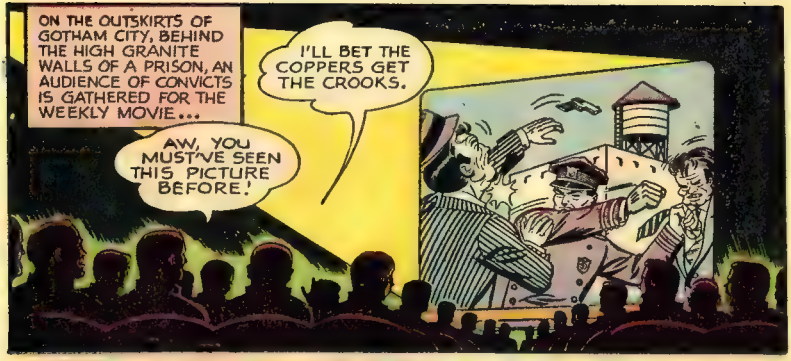
One of the most important steps in developing the lamp was the determination of the wave length required. Visible radiations are distinguished by scientists and physicists not only in terms of color—red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet—but also by measuring the wave lengths which produce various color sensations upon the eye.

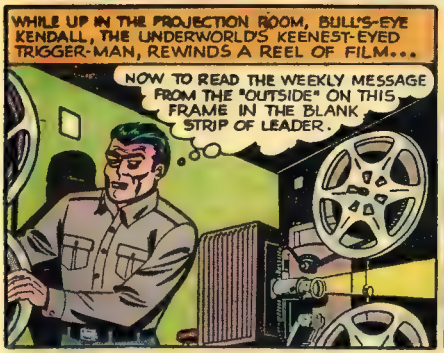
A rope, tied to a stake, moves lazily and in a series of long ripples if the rope is wiggled slowly from the loose end. If the rope is jerked rapidly, the ripples are rapid and shorter. The distances between the crests on the rope illustrate wave length and demonstrate that the more frequent the radiations, the shorter the wave length.

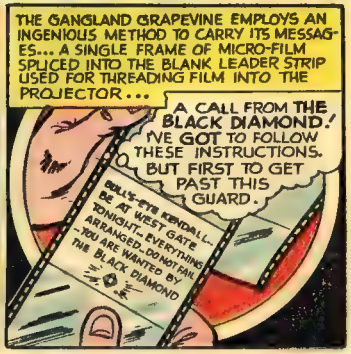
Scientists measure wave lengths in terms of Angstrom units, named after a Swedish scientist who drew up the standards. An Angstrom unit is so tiny that it takes 250,000,000 of them to equal one inch. The shortest visible wave length is violet, or 4,000 Angstrom units. Below violet lies an invisible band used both in photography and to obtain some fluorescent lighting effects. The next band below produces sun tan and Vitamin D.

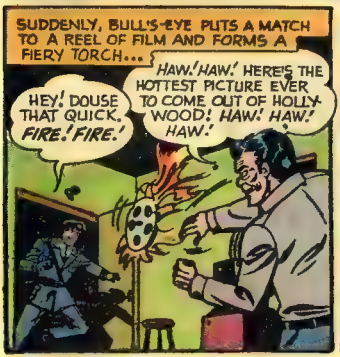
Epidemics some day conceivably will be found only in histories and medical textbooks!

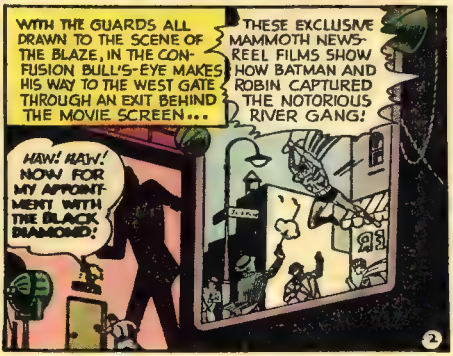
BATMAN
With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER
THE GREATEST TASK FORCE OF UNDERWORLD "KNOW-HOW" EVER ASSEMBLED IS BROUGHT TOGETHER BY A MYSTERIOUS AND POWERFUL CRIMINAL TO ACCOMPLISH A SINGLE SINISTER MISSION! THE ASSIGNMENT:
TO DESTROY BATMAN AND ROBIN!
THUS THE TWO CAPED DEPUTIES OF THE LAW COME FACE TO FACE WITH A BARRAGE OF CRIMINAL CUNNING AND PIT THEIR WITS AND COURAGE AGAINST A FANTASTIC DEATH TRAP ENGINEERED BY THE FABULOUS EMPIRE OF EVIL THAT IS RULED BY...
"THE BLACK DIAMOND!"
BOB KANE

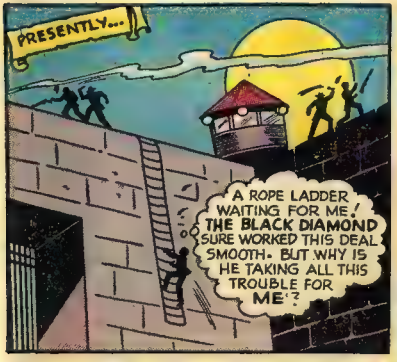

ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF GOTHAM CITY, BEHIND THE HIGH GRANITE WALLS OF A PRISON, AN AUDIENCE OF CONVICTS IS GATHERED FOR THE WEEKLY MOVIE...
I'LL BET THE COPPERS GET THE CROOKS.
AW, YOU MUST'VE SEEN THIS PICTURE BEFORE!

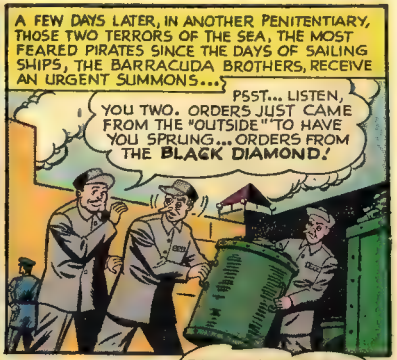

WHILE UP IN THE PROJECTION ROOM, BULL'S-EYE KENDALL, THE UNDERWORLD'S KEENEST-EYED TRIGGER-MAN, REWINDS A REEL OF FILM...
NOW TO READ THE WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM THE "OUTSIDE" ON THIS FRAME IN THE BLANK STRIP OF LEADER.

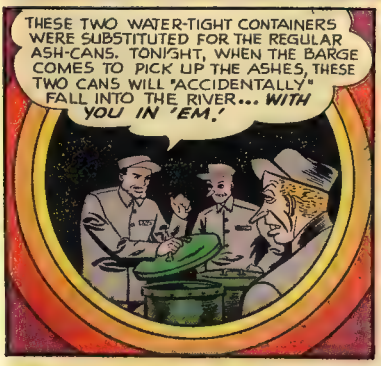

THE GANGLAND GRAPEVINE EMPLOYS AN INGENIOUS METHOD TO CARRY ITS MESSAGES... A SINGLE FRAME OF MICRO-FILM SPLICED INTO THE BLANK LEADER STRIP USED FOR THREADING FILM INTO THE PROJECTOR...
A CALL FROM THE BLACK DIAMOND! I'VE GOT TO FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS. BUT FIRST TO GET PAST THIS GUARD.
BULL'S-EYE KENDALL... BE AT WEST GATE TONIGHT—EVERYTHING ARRANGED...DO NOT FAIL —YOU ARE WANTED BY THE BLACK DIAMOND

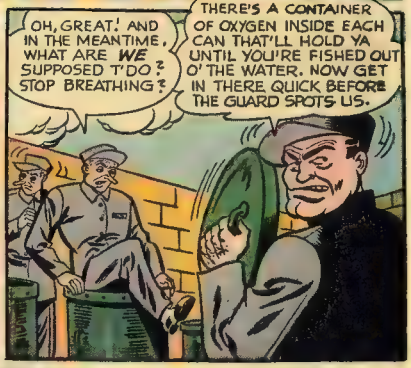

SUDDENLY, BULL'S-EYE PUTS A MATCH TO A REEL OF FILM AND FORMS A FIERY TORCH...
HAW! HAW! HERE'S THE HOTTEST PICTURE EVER TO COME OUT OF HOLLYWOOD! HAW! HAW! HAW!
HEY! DOUSE THAT QUICK. FIRE! FIRE!

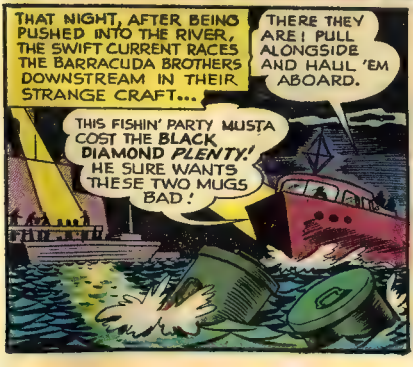

WITH THE GUARDS ALL DRAWN TO THE SCENE OF THE BLAZE, IN THE CONFUSION BULL'S-EYE MAKES HIS WAY TO THE WEST GATE THROUGH AN EXIT BEHIND THE MOVIE SCREEN...
THESE EXCLUSIVE MAMMOTH NEWS-REEL FILMS SHOW HOW BATMAN AND ROBIN CAPTURED THE NOTORIOUS RIVER GANG!
HAW! HAW! NOW FOR MY APPOINTMENT WITH THE BLACK DIAMOND!

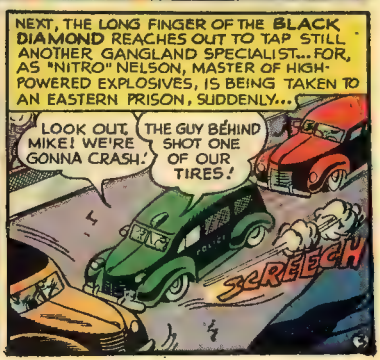

PRESENTLY...
A ROPE LADDER WAITING FOR ME! THE BLACK DIAMOND SURE WORKED THIS DEAL SMOOTH. BUT WHY IS HE TAKING ALL THIS TROUBLE FOR ME?


A FEW DAYS LATER, IN ANOTHER PENITENTIARY, THOSE TWO TERRORS OF THE SEA, THE MOST FEARED PIRATES SINCE THE DAYS OF SAILING SHIPS, THE BARRACUDA BROTHERS, RECEIVE AN URGENT SUMMONS...
PSST... LISTEN, YOU TWO. ORDERS JUST CAME FROM THE "OUTSIDE" TO HAVE YOU SPRUNG... ORDERS FROM THE BLACK DIAMOND!


THESE TWO WATER-TIGHT CONTAINERS WERE SUBSTITUTED FOR THE REGULAR ASH-CANS. TONIGHT, WHEN THE BARGE COMES TO PICK UP THE ASHES, THESE TWO CANS WILL "ACCIDENTALLY" FALL INTO THE RIVER... WITH YOU IN 'EM.'


OH, GREAT! AND IN THE MEANTIME, WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED T'DO? STOP BREATHING?
THERE'S A CONTAINER OF OXYGEN INSIDE EACH CAN THAT'LL HOLD YA UNTIL YOU'RE FISHED OUT O' THE WATER. NOW GET IN THERE QUICK BEFORE THE GUARD SPOTS US.


THAT NIGHT, AFTER BEING PUSHED INTO THE RIVER, THE SWIFT CURRENT RACES THE BARRACUDA BROTHERS DOWNSTREAM IN THEIR STRANGE CRAFT...
THERE THEY ARE! PULL ALONGSIDE AND HAUL 'EM ABOARD.
THIS FISHIN' PARTY MUSTA COST THE BLACK DIAMOND PLENTY! HE SURE WANTS THESE TWO MUGS BAD!


NEXT, THE LONG FINGER OF THE BLACK DIAMOND REACHES OUT TO TAP STILL ANOTHER GANGLAND SPECIALIST... FOR, AS "NITRO" NELSON, MASTER OF HIGH-POWERED EXPLOSIVES, IS BEING TAKEN TO AN EASTERN PRISON, SUDDENLY...
LOOK OUT, MIKE! WE'RE GONNA CRASH!
THE GUY BEHIND SHOT ONE OF OUR TIRES!
SCREECH

OKAY, NITRO! ON YOUR FEET. YOU'RE COMIN' WITH US!
THE REST OF YOU MUGS STAY PUT. WE'VE ONLY GOT ONE "TRANSFER"— AND THE NAME ON IT IS NITRO NELSON.
I'M NOT BEEFING, BUT WHY DID YOU SPRING ONLY ME?
ORDERS FROM THE BLACK DIAMOND, NITRO. THAT'S ALL YA NEED T'KNOW FER NOW.
WHO IS THIS MYSTERIOUS GANG LORD WHO SNATCHES CRIMINALS FROM THE STRONGEST BASTIONS OF THE LAW? WHAT IS THE SECRET OF HIS SINISTER POWER? FOR THE ANSWER, LET US GO TO A SUBTERRANEAN, VAULTED HIDEOUT AND MEET FACE TO FACE WITH THE BLACK DIAMOND AS HE HOLDS CONFERENCE WITH THE FOUR CRIMINALS HE HAS JUST RESCUED.
SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL, RARE GEMS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A SOURCE OF WEALTH AND POWER. THAT IS WHY I HAVE DEVOTED MY LIFE TO COLLECTING THE WORLD'S MOST FABULOUS JEWELS... THAT, MY FRIENDS, IS WHY I AM CALLED THE BLACK DIAMOND!
DEATH DIAMOND WORLD'S LARGEST BLACK DIAMOND CAPETOWN, SO. AFRICA 1893
I HAVE BROUGHT YOU FOUR TOGETHER BECAUSE IN ORDER TO EXPAND MY COLLECTION I HAVE NEED OF YOUR SPECIAL TALENTS. YOU WILL EACH BECOME A POINT ON MY HUMAN DIAMOND... AN UNDERWORLD BRAINTRUST! BUT BETWEEN US AND SUCCESS STAND...
... BATMAN AND ROBIN! BEFORE WE CAN START OPERATIONS, THEY MUST BE DESTROYED!
THOSE TWO GUYS SENT ME UP FOR A TEN-YEAR STRETCH.
THEY'RE THE ONES WHO BROKE UP OUR RIVER GANG.
DON'T WORRY, BLACK DIAMOND. I'LL FIGURE A WAY TO BLOW THEM UP—OR MY NAME AIN'T BULL'S-EYE KENDALL!

THE NEXT DAY, AN EVIL PLAN TAKES SHAPE IN THE CUNNING MIND OF NITRO NELSON AS HE STUDIES AN ITEM IN THE GOTHAM NEWS...

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S **BOMB SQUAD** GRADUATES TOMORROW, EH? HERE'S WHERE THEY GET A LESSON THEY MISSED IN SCHOOL... AND **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** WILL GRADUATE **FOR GOOD!**

EXPLOSIVES!

T.N.T.

GOTHAM GAZETTE

BATMAN AND ROBIN TO ...CTURE BOMB SQUAD GRADU...

WHEN THE ORGAN STARTS TO PLAY AT THE END OF GRADUATION EXERCISES TOMORROW, THE SOUND WAVES WILL SEND AN IMPULSE THROUGH THIS "MIKE" TO THE DETONATOR BELOW... THEN WE'LL HAVE SOME **REAL** MUSIC!

THE NIGHT BEFORE GRADUATION, NITRO AND HIS HENCHMEN GAIN ENTRANCE INTO THE BASEMENT OF THE POLICE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM AND SET THE STAGE FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF THE DYNAMIC DUO...

OKAY, YOU GUYS, KEEP MOVIN'; WE WANT TO GIVE THE BOMB SQUAD CLASS OF '50 A **REAL BANG.** HA! HA!

T.N.T.

T.N.T.

ROBIN AND I TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN PRESENTING TO YOU „GOTHAM CITY'S NEWEST RECRUITS IN THE BATTLE AGAINST CRIME, THE LATEST PRODUCT OF THE **BAT CAVE...**

VIGILANCE

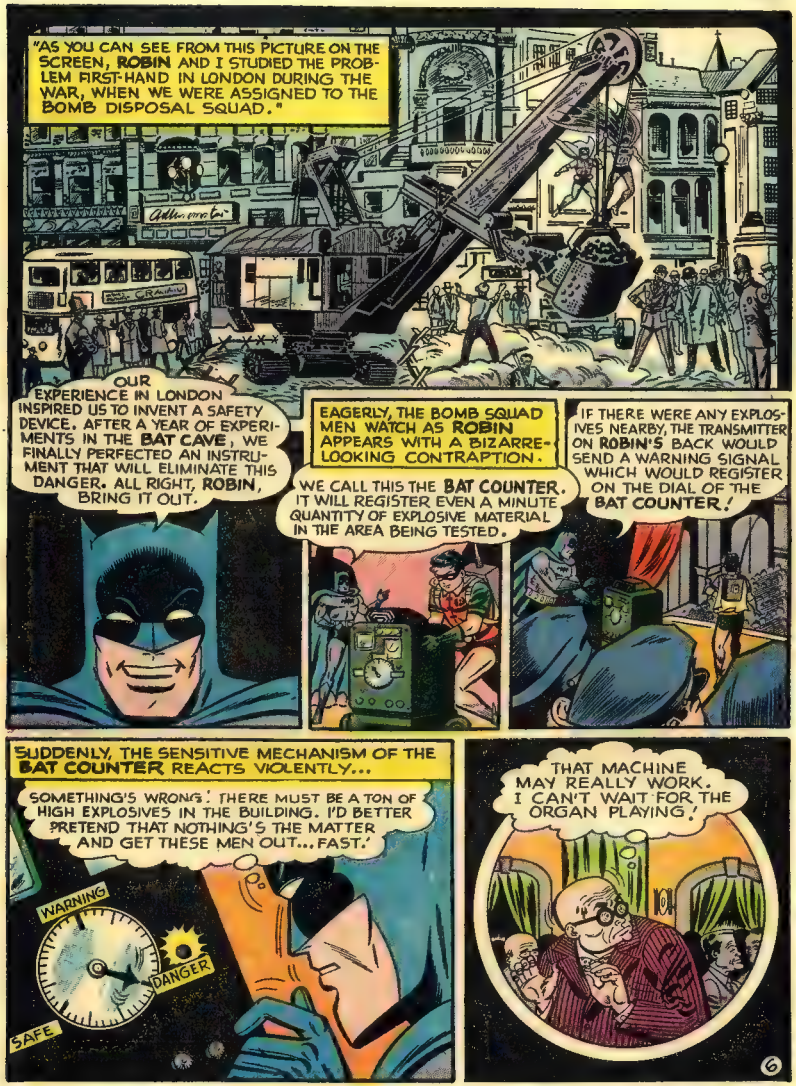
COURAGE

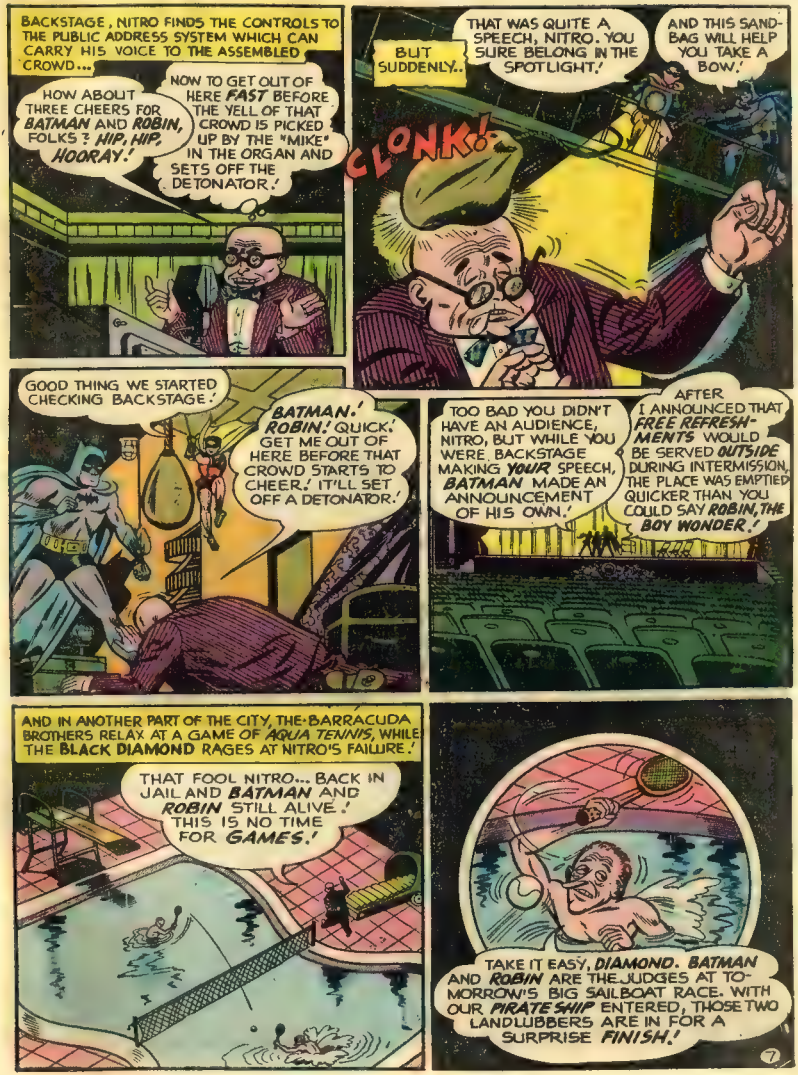
THE NEXT DAY, MEMBERS OF THE BOMB SQUAD GRADUTING CLASS ARE LINED UP IN FRESHLY PRESSED UNIFORMS AS **BATMAN** PREPARES AN EXCITING EXPERIMENT.

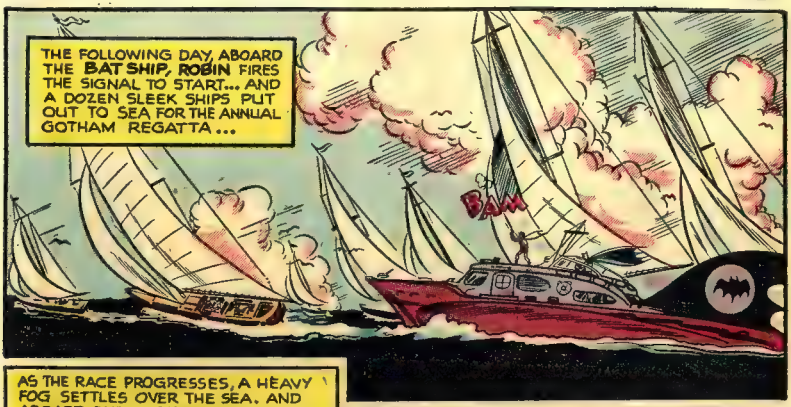
WHILE IN THE AUDIENCE, NITRO NELSON IS ON HAND FOR ONE LAST LOOK AT HIS INTENDED VICTIMS.

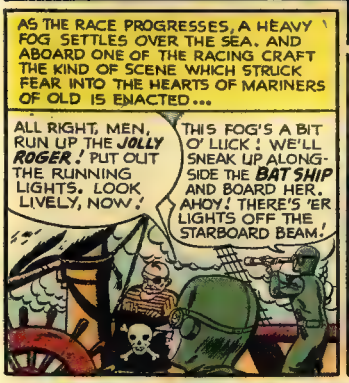
THE ORGAN WON'T START TO PLAY UNTIL **BATMAN** FINISHES HIS SPEECH. I'LL GET OUT IN TIME TO WATCH THIS PLACE **WIPED OFF THE MAP!**

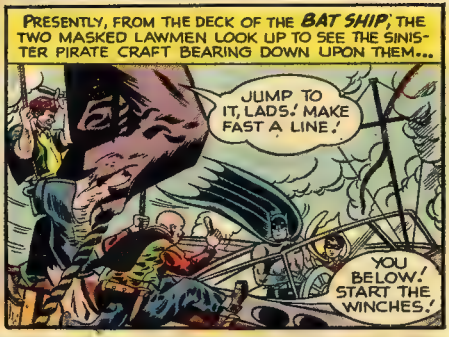
ONE OF THE GREATEST DANGERS MEMBERS OF THE BOMB SQUAD ALWAYS MUST RISK IS THE NECESSITY FOR COMING IN CONTACT WITH AN EXPLOSIVE IN ORDER TO DETECT ITS PRESENCE...

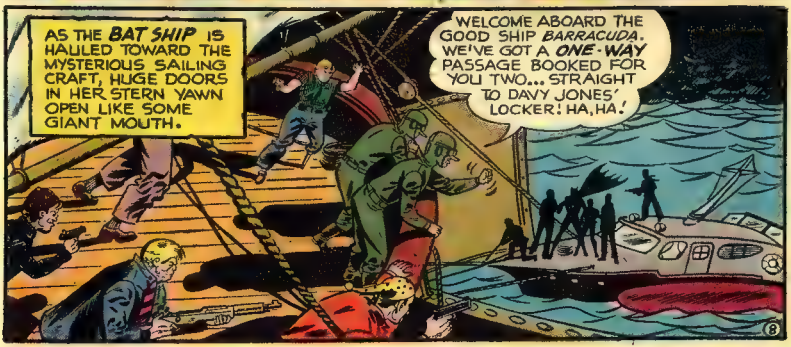

"AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THIS PICTURE ON THE SCREEN, ROBIN AND I STUDIED THE PROBLEM FIRST-HAND IN LONDON DURING THE WAR, WHEN WE WERE ASSIGNED TO THE BOMB DISPOSAL SQUAD."
OUR EXPERIENCE IN LONDON INSPIRED US TO INVENT A SAFETY DEVICE. AFTER A YEAR OF EXPERIMENTS IN THE BAT CAVE, WE FINALLY PERFECTED AN INSTRUMENT THAT WILL ELIMINATE THIS DANGER. ALL RIGHT, ROBIN, BRING IT OUT.
EAGERLY, THE BOMB SQUAD MEN WATCH AS ROBIN APPEARS WITH A BIZARRE-LOOKING CONTRAPTION.
WE CALL THIS THE BAT COUNTER. IT WILL REGISTER EVEN A MINUTE QUANTITY OF EXPLOSIVE MATERIAL IN THE AREA BEING TESTED.
IF THERE WERE ANY EXPLOSIVES NEARBY, THE TRANSMITTER ON ROBIN'S BACK WOULD SEND A WARNING SIGNAL WHICH WOULD REGISTER ON THE DIAL OF THE BAT COUNTER.'
SUDDENLY, THE SENSITIVE MECHANISM OF THE BAT COUNTER REACTS VIOLENTLY...
SOMETHING'S WRONG! THERE MUST BE A TON OF HIGH EXPLOSIVES IN THE BUILDING. I'D BETTER PRETEND THAT NOTHING'S THE MATTER AND GET THESE MEN OUT... FAST.'
WARNING
DANGER
SAFE
THAT MACHINE MAY REALLY WORK. I CAN'T WAIT FOR THE ORGAN PLAYING!'

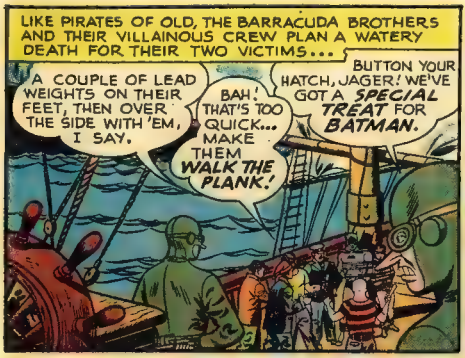

BACKSTAGE, NITRO FINDS THE CONTROLS TO THE PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM WHICH CAN CARRY HIS VOICE TO THE ASSEMBLED CROWD...
HOW ABOUT THREE CHEERS FOR BATMAN AND ROBIN, FOLKS? HIP, HIP, HOORAY!
NOW TO GET OUT OF HERE FAST BEFORE THE YELL OF THAT CROWD IS PICKED UP BY THE "MIKE" IN THE ORGAN AND SETS OFF THE DETONATOR!
BUT SUDDENLY..
CLONK!
THAT WAS QUITE A SPEECH, NITRO. YOU SURE BELONG IN THE SPOTLIGHT!
AND THIS SAND-BAG WILL HELP YOU TAKE A BOW!
GOOD THING WE STARTED CHECKING BACKSTAGE!
BATMAN! ROBIN! QUICK! GET ME OUT OF HERE BEFORE THAT CROWD STARTS TO CHEER! IT'LL SET OFF A DETONATOR!
TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T HAVE AN AUDIENCE, NITRO, BUT WHILE YOU WERE BACKSTAGE MAKING YOUR SPEECH, BATMAN MADE AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS OWN!
AFTER I ANNOUNCED THAT FREE REFRESHMENTS WOULD BE SERVED OUTSIDE DURING INTERMISSION, THE PLACE WAS EMPTIED QUICKER THAN YOU COULD SAY ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER!
AND IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY, THE BARRACUDA BROTHERS RELAX AT A GAME OF AQUA TENNIS, WHILE THE BLACK DIAMOND RAGES AT NITRO'S FAILURE!
THAT FOOL NITRO... BACK IN JAIL AND BATMAN AND ROBIN STILL ALIVE! THIS IS NO TIME FOR GAMES!
TAKE IT EASY, DIAMOND. BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE THE JUDGES AT TOMORROW'S BIG SAILBOAT RACE. WITH OUR PIRATE SHIP ENTERED, THOSE TWO LANDLUBBERS ARE IN FOR A SURPRISE FINISH!

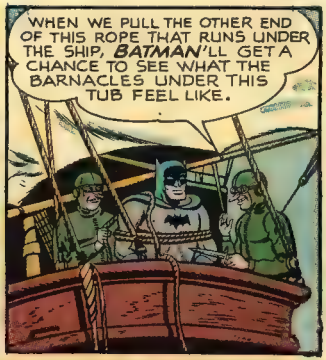

THE FOLLOWING DAY, ABOARD THE BAT SHIP, ROBIN FIRES THE SIGNAL TO START... AND A DOZEN SLEEK SHIPS PUT OUT TO SEA FOR THE ANNUAL GOTHAM REGATTA...
BAM

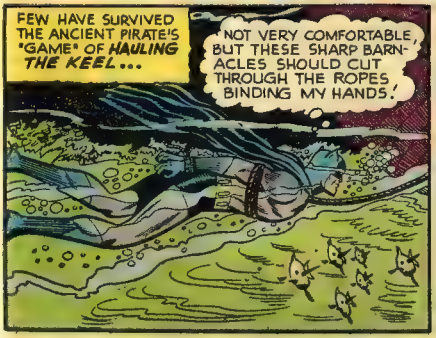

AS THE RACE PROGRESSES, A HEAVY FOG SETTLES OVER THE SEA. AND ABOARD ONE OF THE RACING CRAFT THE KIND OF SCENE WHICH STRUCK FEAR INTO THE HEARTS OF MARINERS OF OLD IS ENACTED...
ALL RIGHT, MEN, RUN UP THE JOLLY ROGER! PUT OUT THE RUNNING LIGHTS. LOOK LIVELY, NOW!
THIS FOG'S A BIT O' LUCK! WE'LL SNEAK UP ALONGSIDE THE BAT SHIP AND BOARD HER. AHOY! THERE'S 'ER LIGHTS OFF THE STARBOARD BEAM!

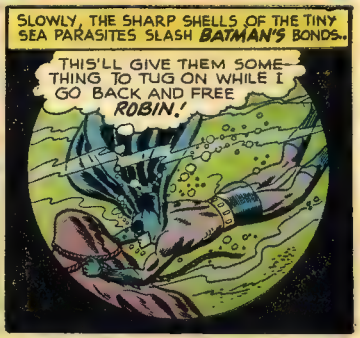

PRESENTLY, FROM THE DECK OF THE BAT SHIP, THE TWO MASKED LAWMEN LOOK UP TO SEE THE SINISTER PIRATE CRAFT BEARING DOWN UPON THEM...
JUMP TO IT, LADS! MAKE FAST A LINE!
YOU BELOW! START THE WINCHES!

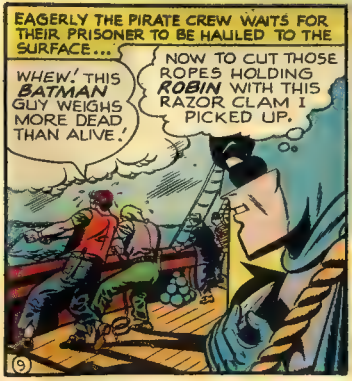

AS THE BAT SHIP IS HAULED TOWARD THE MYSTERIOUS SAILING CRAFT, HUGE DOORS IN HER STERN YAWN OPEN LIKE SOME GIANT MOUTH.
WELCOME ABOARD THE GOOD SHIP BARRACUDA. WE'VE GOT A ONE-WAY PASSAGE BOOKED FOR YOU TWO... STRAIGHT TO DAVY JONES' LOCKER! HA, HA!

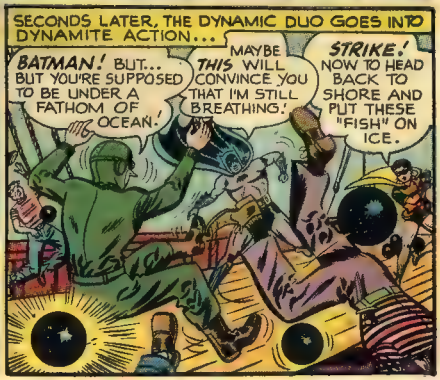

LIKE PIRATES OF OLD, THE BARRACUDA BROTHERS AND THEIR VILLAINOUS CREW PLAN A WATERY DEATH FOR THEIR TWO VICTIMS...
A COUPLE OF LEAD WEIGHTS ON THEIR FEET, THEN OVER THE SIDE WITH 'EM, I SAY.
BAH! THAT'S TOO QUICK... MAKE THEM WALK THE PLANK!
BUTTON YOUR HATCH, JAGER! WE'VE GOT A SPECIAL TREAT FOR BATMAN.

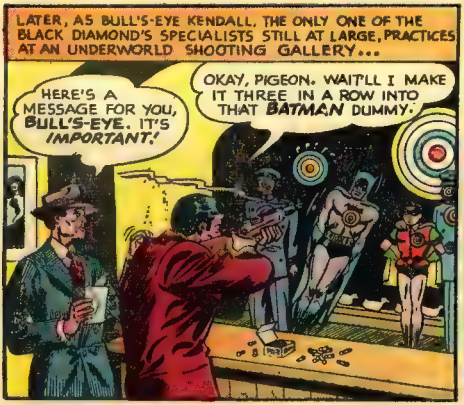

WHEN WE PULL THE OTHER END OF THIS ROPE THAT RUNS UNDER THE SHIP, BATMAN'LL GET A CHANCE TO SEE WHAT THE BARNACLES UNDER THIS TUB FEEL LIKE.


FEW HAVE SURVIVED THE ANCIENT PIRATE'S "GAME" OF HAULING THE KEEL...
NOT VERY COMFORTABLE, BUT THESE SHARP BARNACLES SHOULD CUT THROUGH THE ROPES BINDING MY HANDS!

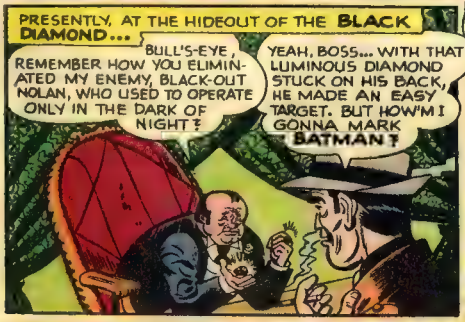

SLOWLY, THE SHARP SHELLS OF THE TINY SEA PARASITES SLASH BATMAN'S BONDS..
THIS'LL GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO TUG ON WHILE I GO BACK AND FREE ROBIN!

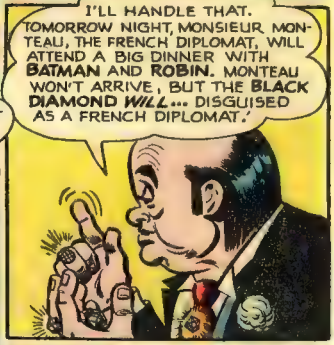

EAGERLY THE PIRATE CREW WAITS FOR THEIR PRISONER TO BE HAULED TO THE SURFACE...
WHEW! THIS BATMAN GUY WEIGHS MORE DEAD THAN ALIVE!
NOW TO CUT THOSE ROPES HOLDING ROBIN WITH THIS RAZOR CLAM I PICKED UP.

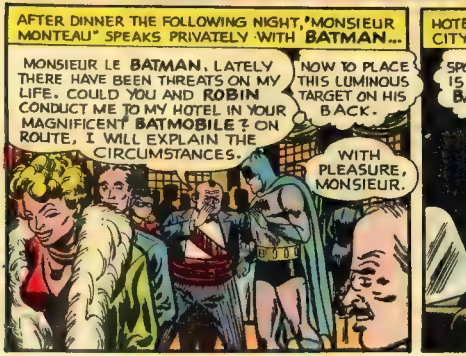

SECONDS LATER, THE DYNAMIC DUO GOES INTO DYNAMITE ACTION...
BATMAN! BUT... BUT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE UNDER A FATHOM OF OCEAN!
MAYBE THIS WILL CONVINCE YOU THAT I'M STILL BREATHING!
STRIKE! NOW TO HEAD BACK TO SHORE AND PUT THESE "FISH" ON ICE.


LATER, AS BULL'S-EYE KENDALL, THE ONLY ONE OF THE BLACK DIAMOND'S SPECIALISTS STILL AT LARGE, PRACTICES AT AN UNDERWORLD SHOOTING GALLERY...
HERE'S A MESSAGE FOR YOU, BULL'S-EYE. IT'S IMPORTANT.'
OKAY, PIGEON. WAIT'LL I MAKE IT THREE IN A ROW INTO THAT BATMAN DUMMY.

A SUMMONS FROM THE BLACK DIAMOND! THIS MEANS THAT I FINALLY GET A SHOT AT THE REAL BATMAN ... AND I NEVER MISS.'


PRESENTLY, AT THE HIDEOUT OF THE BLACK DIAMOND...
BULL'S-EYE, REMEMBER HOW YOU ELIMINATED MY ENEMY, BLACK-OUT NOLAN, WHO USED TO OPERATE ONLY IN THE DARK OF NIGHT?
YEAH, BOSS... WITH THAT LUMINOUS DIAMOND STUCK ON HIS BACK, HE MADE AN EASY TARGET. BUT HOW'M I GONNA MARK BATMAN?


I'LL HANDLE THAT. TOMORROW NIGHT, MONSIEUR MONTEAU, THE FRENCH DIPLOMAT, WILL ATTEND A BIG DINNER WITH BATMAN AND ROBIN. MONTEAU WON'T ARRIVE, BUT THE BLACK DIAMOND WILL... DISGUISED AS A FRENCH DIPLOMAT.'


AFTER DINNER THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, "MONSIEUR MONTEAU" SPEAKS PRIVATELY WITH BATMAN...
MONSIEUR LE BATMAN, LATELY THERE HAVE BEEN THREATS ON MY LIFE. COULD YOU AND ROBIN CONDUCT ME TO MY HOTEL IN YOUR MAGNIFICENT BATMOBILE? ON ROUTE, I WILL EXPLAIN THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
NOW TO PLACE THIS LUMINOUS TARGET ON HIS BACK.
WITH PLEASURE, MONSIEUR.

MARKED BY A TARGET, INVISIBLE IN LIGHT BUT BRILLIANT IN DARKNESS, BATMAN HEADS FOR THE DIPLOMAT'S HOTEL ON THE LONELY OUTSKIRTS OF GOTHAM CITY...
HERE'S THE SPOT WHERE BULL'S-EYE IS WAITING. NOW TO GET BATMAN OUT OF THE CAR.
OHH, OHH... MY STOMACH! PLEASE, YOU MUST STOP FOR A MOMENT.

AS **BATMAN** LEAVES THE BULLET-PROOF VEHICLE TO COME TO THE AID OF THE STRICKEN DIPLOMAT, THE RADIANT TARGET ON HIS BACK APPEARS IN BULL'S-EYE'S GUN-SIGHTS...

A PERFECT TARGET. ALL RIGHT, **BATMAN**, THIS IS YOUR *FINISH!*

THE CRACK OF A RIFLE, THE WHINE OF A BULLET, AND **BATMAN** CRASHES OVER THE STEEP EMBANKMENT BESIDE THE ROAD.

CRACK!!

BATMAN... HE'S BEEN SHOT! QUICK, MONSIEUR MONTEAU, GRAB THE FIRST-AID KIT AND FOLLOW ME.'

HOW WAS *THAT* FOR SHOOTING, **BLACK DIAMOND?**

THE BLACK DIAMOND!! AND I FELL FOR THAT DISGUISE!

NOT SO FAST, KID. YOU'RE GOING WITH US.

THIS TIME I'M TAKING NO CHANCES. GO OVER THE EMBANKMENT AND MAKE SURE THAT **BATMAN** IS *REALLY* DEAD.'

YEAH, I'LL GIVE HIM A COUPLE MORE SLUGS FOR GOOD MEASURE.'

AS THE SOUND OF TWO MORE SHOTS MOMENTARILY DISTRACTS **DIAMOND**, **ROBIN** ABRUPTLY BREAKS AWAY...

BANG! BANG!

HA! *THAT* DOES IT. THE ENTIRE UNDERWORLD WILL THANK ME FOR *THIS* NIGHT'S WORK... *HEY!* COME BACK HERE, YOU BRAT.'

LATER, AFTER ESCAPING SUCCESSFULLY, **ROBIN** RETURNS TO THE SCENE. THERE, BESIDE THE LIMP, CLOAK-CAPED FIGURE, A BROKEN-HEARTED YOUTH KNEELS IN A FINAL FAREWELL...

THE BRAVEST, MOST GENEROUS FRIEND IN ALL THE WORLD, AND NOW... HE'D DEAD.'

PRESENTLY, AT HIS HIDEOUT, THE BLACK DIAMOND IS ABOUT TO PRESENT A SURPRISE "REWARD" TO THE JUBILANT BULL'S-EYE...
"BATMAN DEAD!" I CAN SEE THE NEWSPAPER HEADLINES NOW... EVERY CROOK IN THE COUNTRY CAN BE THANKFUL TO US. TOO BAD, THOUGH, THAT BRAT ROBIN GOT AWAY.
EVERY COP IN THE COUNTRY WILL NOW BE OUT TO AVENGE BATMAN'S DEATH! IT'LL BE A LOT SAFER FOR ME WITHOUT YOU. THE CHAIR IN WHICH YOU'RE SITTING IS AN ELECTRIC CHAIR... I THROW THIS SWITCH AND...
SUDDENLY...
ROBIN!! WHY.. ER.. AH... THERE'S BATMAN'S KILLER. BULL'S-EYE KENDALL... HE DID IT. I... ER.. AH.. WAS JUST ABOUT TO TURN HIM OVER TO THE POLICE WHEN YOU ARRIVED.
YOU'RE A LITTLE LATE, DIAMOND. BATMAN'S "KILLER" IS ALREADY BEHIND BARS.
FOR A BRIEF INSTANT, BULL'S-EYE STEPS INTO A SHADOW IN THE CORNER OF THE ROOM... THEN MIRACULOUSLY RETURNS AS... BATMAN.
BATMAN!! NO, THIS CAN'T BE... I SAW YOU KILLED BEFORE MY OWN EYES. HOW CAN YOU BE HERE... AND ALIVE?
SIMPLE... HAVING ONCE LIVED IN FRANCE, I SPOTTED YOUR PHONEY ACCENT. WHEN YOU PULLED THAT SICK GAG, I WAS ALERT FOR TREACHERY. I SAW THE LUMINOUS DIAMOND ON MY BACK REFLECTED IN THE BATMOBILE'S WINDSHIELD, AND AS BULL'S-EYE FIRED, I DIVED FOR THE EMBANKMENT.
"I PRETENDED TO BE HIT, AND, WHEN BULL'S-EYE FOLLOWED ME OVER THE EMBANKMENT, I TACKLED HIM, CAUSING HIS GUN TO GO OFF... THOSE WERE THE LAST TWO SHOTS YOU HEARD."
NOW FOR A QUICK CHANGE OF CLOTHES AND SOME MAKE-UP FROM MY UTILITY BELT.
UGH!
BANG
BANG
"DISGUISED AS BULL'S-EYE, I RETURNED TO THE BATMOBILE WHERE BLACK DIAMOND WAS WAITING. ROBIN FOUND THE REAL BULL'S-EYE LYING UNCONSCIOUS, COVERED BY MY CAPE."
SO BATMAN WENT WITH DIAMOND. I'LL TURN BULL'S-EYE OVER TO THE POLICE AND THEN TRACE THE BATMOBILE.
THE POLICE CAR RADIO PICKED UP THE BATMOBILE'S RADIO CARRIER WAVE AND LED US RIGHT TO THE DOOR.
AND JUST IN TIME TO SAVE ME FROM BEING "KILLED" FOR THE SECOND TIME IN ONE NIGHT.
THE END
12

VISIT THE BATCAVE AND LEARN THE 1,001 SECRETS OF THE HALL OF TROPHIES - IN THE APRIL ISSUE OF DETECTIVE COMICS, NOW ON SALE!

LITTLE PETE
MOM AND DAD ARE HAVING A PARTY!
ALL RIGHT, WILBUR, IT'S YOUR TURN FOR BLIND-MAN'S BLUFF!
GOLLY, WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY!
I HOPE DAD IS STILL PLAYING THE GAME!
DAD, I FORGOT TO SHOW YOU MY REPORT CARD AT SUPPER! WILL YOU SIGN IT NOW?
THE END

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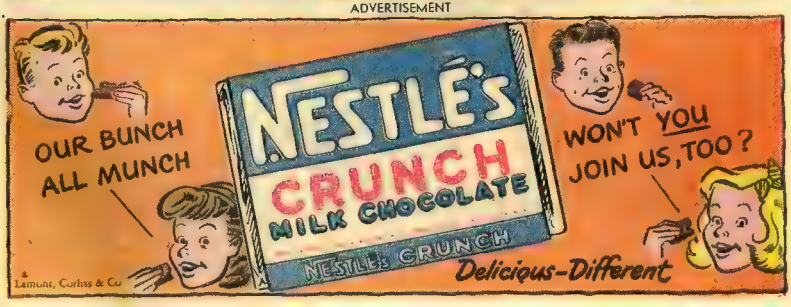

SUPERMAN'S CODE for BUDDIES
HIYA, FELLAS. CAN I JOIN YOU?
SURE, COME ON IN!
ACE CLUB HOUSE
YOU'RE NEW HERE, AREN'T YOU? WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
SAM LEVY. I'M GLAD TO MEET YOU ALL. I--
ACE
LEVY? WELL, WE'RE NOT GLAD TO MEET YOU! WE DON'T GO FOR YOUR KIND, SEE?
WHY NOT? HE LOOKS LIKE A NICE KID. WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE WHAT HIS NAME IS?
YES, TOMMY, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
I'M SURPRISED TO HEAR MY KID BROTHER TALK LIKE THAT--ESPECIALLY DURING BROTHERHOOD WEEK! MAYBE I CAN CHANGE YOUR MIND PRETTY QUICKLY--IF MY FRIEND, SUPERMAN, WILL LEND A HAND...
JIM! AND, SUPERMAN!
LATER...
GOSH, WHERE ARE WE GOING, SUPERMAN?
TO IWO JIMA, WHERE MEN DIED FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM AND AGAINST INTOLERANCE--MEN LIKE YOUR BROTHER...AND OTHERS!
AND IN AMAZINGLY SHORT TIME...
SEE THAT GRAVE? THE MAN WHO LIES THERE DIED TO SAVE MY LIFE. HIS NAME WAS JOE RUBIN, AND HIS RELIGION WAS THE SAME AS SAM'S. HE WAS A WONDERFUL GUY... HE WAS MY BUDDY. IT DIDN'T MATTER TO ME WHAT HIS RELIGION WAS.
I'M SORRY, SAM.
IT NEVER SHOULD MATTER WHAT A PERSON IS--PROTESTANT, JEW OR CATHOLIC. NOR SHOULD IT MATTER WHAT THE COLOR OF A PERSON'S SKIN IS, OR WHERE HIS PARENTS WERE BORN. THAT'S WHAT BROTHERHOOD WEEK IS ALL ABOUT! LET'S PRACTICE IT 52 WEEKS A YEAR!
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